विश्वविद्यालय का बहुत बड़ा योगदान रहा है। इसलिए इसको केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय का दर्जा दिया जाए।

धन्यवाद

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE
Situation Arising out of Siguing of an Agreement between Doordarshan and CNN.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Thank you. Now, before I take up the Calling Attention Motion, I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Chairman has desired that the discussion on the Vohra Committee Report should be resumed at 3 p.m. So, I would seek the co-operation of the Members and request that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM (Uttar Pradesh): But, Sir...*(Interruption)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): This is also an important one. The one that we are going to discuss is, of course, an important one,

Now, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta will draw the attention of the hon. Minister. Then, there are four names in the motion—Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, Shri V. Narayanasamy and Shri K.R. Malkani. Then, the other names are Shri Digvijay Singh, Shri P. Upendra, Shri Jagmohan, Shri S.S. Ahluwalia, Shri Janeshwar Misra, Shrimati Sarala Maheshwari and Shri Surinder Kumar Singla. In total, there are 11 names. So, kindly keep the time-restraint while speaking on the motion. If any Member is absent when he is called, I will not grant any indulgence to that Member to speak again. Yes, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to the situation arising out of signing of an agreement between Doordarshan and CNN.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): Sir, the recent agreement entered into by Doordarshan with Turner International Inc, Atlanta, USA for the transmission of a 24 hours CNNI programming service utilising a transponder earmarked to Doordarshan on the INSAT 2B satellite has been the subject matter of considerable comment within an outside Parliament, yet, even a cursory look at the salient features of the agreement, which have already been provided to this House through answers to specific questions, will establish that it does not in any way impinge upon the national interest or security. On the contrary, the agreement, which was entered into after a very detailed examination, will be advantageous to Doordarshan on many counts prominent among which are the following:—

(i) It will strengthen the Doordarshan platform considerably by the addition of an inter-national channel which provides news and information to the viewers round the clock.

(ii) It will provide windows on the new channel for Doordarshan's programmes to enable it to present its perception on world events and an overview of the developments at home.

(iii) Its financial terms are very favourable for Doordarshan.

(iv) It will enable Doordarshan to gain access, through the daily CNN programme 'World Report' to a worldwide audience for its five minute news capsule which will be prepared specially for this purpose.

(v) It will enable Doordarshan to provide training at CNN's facilities in the USA to its personnel. In addition, jointly conducted workshops in India will also benefit larger number of doordarshan personnel.

(vi) It will enable Doordarshan to provide to its viewers CNN's popular programmes on its terrestrial channel.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, the statement only gives out some facts and I have every reason to doubt whether the facts are properly substantiated. When the world is going in for transparency, this action can be termed as an action taken from a hide-out. Will the hon. Minister agree to respond that the tie-up with the CNN is just like any other decision within the normal parameters of the national media policy, not a sharp departure from the national media policy which the country had followed for decades, and such a radical change could have taken place behind the back of the Parliament. The question is this. It is not a normal decision. The national policy has been altered and that too has been done by the Executive without the proper mandate of the Parliament. Will the hon. Minister kindly recollect if he had met some of this colleagues in Parliament House during the last Parliament Session and whether some aspects of the media policy problems were discussed and some questions were raised within and he had promised to revert back to his colleagues and tell whether the hon. Minister for Information and Broadcasting has honoured that commitment? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister of State had himself been consulted or this is a decision from above. The Government had not till now agreed on foreign ownership in the print media, but it has done so and done so so blatantly by allowing the Cable News Network into our Doordarshan channel system. May I know from the hon. Minister why this contrast is there or, is it that some important changes are in the offing in the matter of publication also?

Sir, making Indian telecasting frequencies available to a foreign media, in my opinion, and in the opinion of the House also, is a fundamental and drastic change. It is a change in policy. The first Press Commission during Jawaharlal Nehru's regime had, in fact, decided that publications dealing with sensitive subjects of news and current affairs should not be owned by foreigners. This was a decision on the basis of a national consensus, and this was a decision the nation had taken taking into consideration all aspects of national interest. You will kindly remember, Sir, that the Second Press Commission also upheld the same position that there should be no foreign ownership with regard to sensitive issues concerning news, current affairs and national developments. This must be done by the Indians. You will also remember, Sir, that during the seventies successive Governments had successfully prevented the attempt of international agencies to enter into our print or electronic media. Sir, this is not something unique with the Indian nation only. We, many of our national leaders, look at America for guidance. What is the role of America? In America, Sir, the foreign influence over or control on broadcasting is not accepted.

Sir, may I read out a recent statement made by important official, who is supposed to be the Assistant Commerce Secretary? This gentleman says, "We should not be too hasty in listing restrictions on the amount of foreign influence over our control of broadcasting." He has said this in the month of March, 1995. The point is, if foreign influence is a matter of concern, a matter of suspicion and not easily overlooked in a country like America, then why it is not being done so in India? India is a country which is blessed by a fissile environment, a secular environment and we live constantly under the threat of secession and there is a possibility of external intervention and aggression that the country is aware of. In such a situation, Sir, we have allowed our media policy to undergo a drastic change and we have decided to have Americanised version of news

and current affairs. That is the main point, Sir.

I do not object on sports and entertainment — even though that is also a matter of concern because Indian morality is seriously affected; Indian identity is seriously infringed. That is very important for social environment. But, more important and strategically important and of vital concern for the country is that we are having Americanised version, because CNN is American, Americanised version of world and current and national developments. Sir, may I ask you, may I ask the hon. Minister representing the Government? The country is so concerned over the security. So is it safe for India to allow entry of foreign media, that too on news and current affairs and views also? I think, Sir, and I am firmly of the opinion, that the possible impact of foreign influenced media on the national politics has been ignored, has not been taken note of, has been made secondary. Whatever considerations are, I do not know, Sir, but this aspect of the policy change has not been properly taken note of. Sir, may I tell you that the statement that the hon. Minister has made does not record its views on the most important complaint we have been making that India will have no control, will have no editorial control. It will be a free-for-all; We will be left to the mercy of the decision-makers who are there in the CNN. They will be doing it at their own. That has been the complaint. This is the fundamental complaint. Over and above, we have pointed out the danger of Americanised version of current affairs. The Minister is silent and he had to be silent. It was on a black Friday that the agreement between Doordarshan and CNN was signed. It was on a black Friday. The hon. Minister could not be present. Only the bureaucrats were present. If it has any meaning, it is only for the Minister to explain. The first news capsule that was aired by CNN showed some stray cattle on the Bombay streets. Is Bombay known for stray cattle roaming about and the traffic jams? When a prominent journalist protested, the Vice-President, representing the CNN, observed so innocently that it was a tease. India's national identity was being teased that could be the defence of the Vice-President of the CNN even on the day the programme was being launched. Sir, foreigners have a right to tease us and we have to stomach that teasing because we need money. Sir, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the representative of Doordarshan, who was present on the occasion and who signed the agreement, had protested or only stomached the disparaging description of Bomaby? Hon. Minister owes an explanation. Was it put on protest? Yes, cows are roaming about on the main streets of Bombay, but if Bombay is known for that, I have no objection, Sir. But the controversy did not end here. Subsequently in the launching programme of the CNN-Doordarshan tie up, another capsule was there. It had been shown Kashmir not as a part of India. It happened in a programme on weather. Sir, foreigners have never been kind to India. We know what the STAR TV has done and how the Father of the Nation was sought to be denigrated—they cannot denigrate the Father of the Nation, but had sought to denigrate the Father of the Nation. Sir, it is a well-known fact that the BBC had maligned India by putting on display a totally fabricated visual account of events of Chara-e-Sharief. This being the background, will you believe or will you agree that there is substantial reason for suspicion? If suspicion is there, the Government should have been more careful. If the Government has not been careful, the Minister owes an explanation. But, that is not the full story of the inaugural day. During the inaugural session, some questions were raised on programmes and the CNN's advertisement policy. The Doordarshan representative very gallantly—that is, of course, my

addition—affirmed that there should be no censorship. He said, "I am not for a censorship, but I am for a safeguard." It means there is no safeguard. They will be at liberty to air any capsule they like. The Vice-President of the CNN had gone further. In reply to a question, he stated that the CNN would not tailor its editorials right to meet the standards of the individual countries. Sir, this is the comment made by the representative of the CNN and this is the admission made by the representative of the Doordarshan, who had signed this agreement. He says, "There should be no censorship. I am not for a censorship." And echoing the same, the Vice-President of the CNN says that they are not going to tailor their advertisement programmes to meet the standards of the individual countries. What does it not mean? Does it mean a national affront? Does it not mean that India is being dishonoured? Does it not mean that the foreigners have a say only and while our Doordarshan has been put on hire? It will be their licence and not liberty on our part to ask for the safeguard. Sir, the point is that the Indian Government had taken a decision and this decision constitutes a change. Now, the point is that we are discussing in the Parliament after the thing was done and that too when we had to call the attention of the Government. Please tell us, Sir, would it not have been proper on the part of the Minister to come before the House and make a *suo motu* statement in order to inform the House of the details of what had been done? This is how the Parliament is being taken by the Government. This is how the national consensus is being violated. Therefore, Sir, the time has come to put an end to it. Sir, I will ask also some other questions, I will ask him whether it is a political deal or a commercial deal? Was this deal effected at the behest of the Foreign Office and Foreign Ministry just to undo the possible tie-up of CNN with Pakistan? Or was it done for money or was it done to get a better coverage for Indian views? What is the volume of the foreign viewers? It is less than a crore. If we take into account the satellite system, is it so powerful as to beam the Indian opinion in other foreign countries. It is not. That system is much weak, I have reason to say that. Even if I take the statement of CNN, what should be the total viewership? Not more than 80 lakhs. Instead, CNN will have a coverage over entire India, even commercially. Is it fair? Sir, therefore, I submit that this is tant amount to a cultural invasion. I will not dilate, time is short. Commercialisation and sensationalisation are the two important characteristics of the foreign media. You will kindly remember, Sir, only the other day, in a Bombay newspaper an advertisement was inserted that an important actress, Ms. Manisha Koirala, who took part in a controversial film, is dead and the murderer is absconding. There is no law even within the country to ensure that this pernicious advertisment is taken care of. If this is done in Bombay, then kindly imagine what is going to be done by CNN with regard to its entertainment policy. Therefore, I say, Sir, this is a cultural invasion and infringement of our national identity. sir, I submit it commits subversion of India's national policy, it violates a number of India's statutes. To conclude, Sir, may I tell the hon. Minister ISRO has built the satellite, INSAT 2-B and the trasnponders. It belongs to ISRO. It has been given to Doordarshn for transmission and Doordarshan has let it out on a commercial basis.

Are you paying ISRO money? Are you paying money to ISRO who has built the transponders, who has built the satellite? It was obviously built to strengthen India's own satellite system, not to be hired out. If you hire it out, you should pay a part of the profit to ISRO. Why should ISRO be denied of its legitimate dues? When so many changes are taking

place in Doordarshan, what about the Prasar Bharati Bill? Why is the Government completely silent? Why has the Bill been put into hibernation? I think the Minister of Information & Broadcasting, and the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting are moving in the opposite directions. While it is silent on the Prasar Bharati Bill it has run amok to invite foreign influence to the total detriment of India's national interests. Sir, if the step is in the direction of globalisation, then it is a step taken without safeguards. And, in my opinion, Sir, totally unguarded liberalisation as this case is, may mean a national disaster. It is my duty to tell the nation that the safety of the nation has not been taken care of. This is an anti-national move. This is a move which I call perverse. This is a move which I believe to be against our national interests.

2 P.M.

The country's national interest has been sold out. The Minister must tell us the reason for taking such an important decision behind the back of the Parliament. I think, on this issue, the Government is on the dock.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL (Bihar): Sir, when I rise to present my viewpoint on this, I must begin by saying two things. One is that in no circumstances am I raising my finger of doubt or suspicion against the Minister. I am very fond of him...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): You are fond of every Minister.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: He is one of those persons whom I always view as a Minister with a great deal of promise. Therefore, when I talk about the issue, I do not talk in the personal sense at all. And I do not talk about it in the sense that I want to criticise him.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is true with me also. We are not discussing personalities. We are discussing policies. And policies are decided by the Gvernment collectively.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Bihar): The House is aware of it.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: I think, one of the norms that I observed in all these years, ever since he has been the Minister, is that I have seldom talked about the Minister of I & B. The reasons are obvious. I think, I impose a conduct rule on myself that having been a Minister in that Ministry for a long time, I should avoid talking about it. And that is what I have done. And there were strong reasons for me to feel that this is one issue on which I should say and express my views to the nation, and even if I may use the impertinent word, of educating the Minister himself. And I hope he would not mind it. At least, my age deserves that I can assume that role at this stage. Also I must say that I do not wish to talk today about the efficacy of CNN; it has a world-wide view, it has so many hours of programmes. That is not the subject for me, and it is there taken for granted.

The interesting thing is, Sir, the agreement was signed on the 30th of June. On that very day, I made a public statement, and I said in my public statement several things. It was widely published. It is very interesting. I had siad, "the agreement is enigmatic." I had siad, "it is extra-ordinary." I had said, "it is a major shift from the established policies"— and I will come to it slightly later —and I had said that it was done without consulting the Parliament, as my hon. colleague has already said just now.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): You have sent the copies to us also.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Interestingly, this statement was published widely all over the country, everywhere. And when it was published, it was very interesting for me to see that the only media which did not carry it was the Doordarshan and the All India Radio. Why did it not do it? I wrote to the Minister, I wrote to the Director-General. And I asked the Director-General:

Was it done under the instructions of the Minister, under the instructions of the Ministry? First of all, I wrote the letter on the 10th of July, I gave a reminder. Then I got a reply on the 31st of July, and I will read out only the relevant para. I am not trying to denigrate the Director-General. I think, he is a very able man. What does he tell me? He says: "The decision to carry the reaction to the agreement, both positive and negative, was taken by the Editors, duly based on their perception of *inter se* priority of various news." This is on a day, I say with athority, when the major part of the bulletin was assigned to the agreement. And, I think, in the midst of a Diwali Mela, they did not want the nation to know that there is a lone voice somewhere who has some idea of how the Ministry runs, and raising his doubt and his point. This was not done. First of all, the reply would not come. I gave a reminder. Then the reply came. It came after three weeks. It comes and tells me, "We did not black it out. The Editors did it themselves." Sir, I have been a Minister of Information & Broadcasting. I know how independent the Editors are in the All India Radio and Doordarshan. I think, another colleague of mine, who was also a Minister would also know because he is more efficient than me, and, I think, he would also conclude in the same way. Can an editor take such a policy decision? When I criticise something in regard to an issue which is of a policy nature, which is being taken note of all over the country, can a poor fellow, can a poor Editor, sitting in Doordarshan or in the All-India Radio, take a decision himself?

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): The most efficient of the Ministers was Mr. V.C. Shukla.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Thank you very much. Another point I would like to make here. It is a very interesting coincidence. There are two Editors sitting in two different buildings. The person belonging to the All-India Radio sits in one place. The person belonging to Doordarshan sits in another place. Both of them, independently, take a decision! I want to emphasise the words 'independence of decision'. (*Interruptions*) My objection is this.

My colleague has said. Should not the Minister have come to Parliament? What my colleague has said is very interesting. My colleague has said that Parliament was not taken into confidence. I have here a very interesting quotation from the CNN. This is a statement. It says that MPs. were consulted. It is the CNN which is telling us this; not the Minister, not the Ministry, not Doordarshan, not the All-India Radio. They circulate this and tell us—I quote—'The CNN Agreement was thoroughly debated through a series of democratic checks and balances, including a discussion with Opposition MPs in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.' I would like to ask the hon. Minister. Does he think that the discussion, to which Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta had referred, was a discussion? I am very cautious about mentioning that because, in this House, we have observed one practice and also one style. Whatever happens in the Chamber, we never refer to that. We do not refer to that. The Minister says. I do not know. The Minister says that he had consulted. He says that he had consulted. Sir, my colleague, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta was present there. So was I. There were many more Members of this House sitting there. I

endorse every line and every word of what my friend, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, has said.

The point is, an assurance was given to us. The Minister talked to us. It was an informal talk. It was a casual talk. He did not have any paper in his hands. He said that he himself did not know the details of this, but said that he would come back to us because we said that we would give our reaction if the Minister gave us some piece of paper. He promised to do that. Now, the CNN tells us: 'No; the democractic process had been gone through'. If, ultimately, we are....

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR (Uttar Pradesh): This is the sort propaganda which the Chinese used to do. यह तो पहले पता नहीं था कि पूत के पांव पालने में कितने है।

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJARAL: This is what I am trying to say. This is the foreshadow of events to come, that the Parliament itself would learn from the CNN that Parliament was consulted and that, therefore, it was all right. This is one thing which you must keep in mind.

There is one thing which I would like to point out. What did I say in my statement? I would like to read out some portion of it here. I would not read the whole of it. It is not a very happy thing to quote oneself. What did I say? It is on record. I said it in writing. I stand by every word of it. I stake my membership on this.

I said: 'The Minister of Information and Broadcasting had informally talked about it with some of us during the last Session of Parliament. He told us that till then, no details had been worked out. We told him that he can get our reaction only if we were given documents detailing the agreement and also a background note. He promised to do so before formalising any agreement that would facilitate the entry of an alien media into our domain'. I put it there. I am willing to put it on record. If any word of it is proved false, I would resign from Parliament.

Sir, the difficulty is this. Even this was not done. Not only it was not done, but it is also considered as a substitute for having consulted Parliament. Is our Parliament such a casual organisation, such a casual institution, now that you can talk about it in the corridors and take us for granted, take us for a ride? I do not know what happened with the Members of the Lok Sabha. It referred to that also. The CNN says so. I would not vouch for them. I can only vouch for that which I, myself, have experienced. I can only vouch for that which the leading Members of this House have experienced themselves. The difficulty is this. Unfortunately, we have come to such a stage. You pass the Prasar Bharati Bill. But it can be buried; Parliament does not matter. My friend, Mr. Upendra, was a great defender of this idea, but his own Bill was treated like this.

He has forgotten because he is on a different track.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: He is now a defender of the burial!

SHRI INDER KUMER GUJRAL: Now may I ask one thing? Will the hon. Minister promise me that he will hold a regular inquiry why my statement was blacked out? Why was it blacked out? I do not claim that I am a very efficient person, but I think some courtesy I do deserve, if for nothing else, for this reason that I have acquired some seniority in parliamentary life. And, therefore, when I make a very critical assessment of a situation, should it be blacked out and the Director-General tell me, "Editors took a note of it"? Anynow, I will not develop that now.

Sir, it has been said, as my friend has pointed out, that we have gone away from policies and all that. Yes, I am not a stickler to tradition. I am not pleading

that whatever was done in the past must be continued, I am not saying that every policy is sacrosanct, but I think every policy and every changing policy has to have a rational and a continuity. Governments don't function by breaking the continuity factor. Foreign policy, media policy, economic policy, you can make a mix which is separate, but the main point remains that they must be first discussed here in this House, we must be told what were the reasons why we are departing from policy and what were the arguments given so that we could also have gone with this.

I mentioned just now that I had the privilege of being a Minister of this Ministry for several years, perhaps the longest in living memory, apart from Mr. Keskar. Now I can tell you the background, why this policy was evolved in the past. Sir, I think this House remembers that there was a gentleman in this country, and a great leader, by the name of Sardar Patel. Sardar Patel was the first Information Minister of this country. Before India became free, BBC had an agreement with the All-India Radio that they were given a slot after the news. Sardar Patel snapped it. Why did he snap it? It was a very efficient system, it was a world-wide view, BBC was quite remarkable. Sardar Patel said, and rightly so, "Not only am I stopping external intervention, but I am also giving an identity nd a personality to All India Radio." How much we have upheld his tradition, how much we have upheld his promise! Failures are ours, vision was his. But the point also remains that this policy decision was confirmed again and added to in 1956 by the Cabinet decision. The Cabinet took a decision that in media functioning of this country, be it electronic, be it written, the editorial control must remain in India and in Indian hands. Be they officials, be they non-officials, that is a different issue. And my friend, Mr. Dasgupta, has referred to two Press Commissions. They also endorsed this decision. And this decision, again, not only was to remain non controversial, but was also that it must under no circumstances was to be compromised. At that time also, all the international agencies like Reuters, Agency Francaise, AFP and others were wanting to get direct access to the Indian papers. The Cabinet decision said, "No, you have to come through the PTI or the UNI." And that practice has continued. Exception was not given even to Tass, which was thought to be a very friendly agency in the stage in the times of the Soviet Union. Well, I had the privilege of being a Minister to uphold the same policy. I was under immense pressure. Some arguments were given to me: "Well, your views will not reach out; we will go and carry it out for you. You are not heard abroad, we will make you heard abroad." We said, nothing doing. We said, every publication, every media must be based here.

If that policy is still in place—if it is not there, the Minister will please tell us—is it his intention now to permit the London Financial Times and the Herald Tribune also to be published from here? Is it his policy framework that he is now going to let Reuters and others to directly deal with the newspapers because that might help him to reach out, as he is saying?

Also, I want to tell you of an interesting incidence happened in Indian history. The Voice of America was entering into an agreement with Sri Lanka to broadcast from there. India took a grave exception to this. In the Rajiv Gandhi—Jayewardene Agreement, this was one of the issues of contention. We made Shri Lanka agree that they would not let outsiders broadcast from the land which could be heard here. Why did we do it? Because we understood the foreign policy implications of a country's media entering via another country. Sri Lanka, being a friendly country, accepted this contention. Therefore, I ask the Minister: is it

relevant any more or is it not relevant any more? Can we let all this happen? Do broadcasts by an alien broadcaster from the Indian soil have implications for our foreign policy so far as our friendly countries are concerned?

Any independent media can be very independent within the paradigms and within the limitations of national interests. I assert that I do not know a single medium in the world which can act against the perceived national interests of its own country. Suppose, tomorrow, America has a different perception of interests, say, with any Gulf country, with Iran or with any other country, from our own perception and this transponder is used for that purpose. We do not have any editorial control. It will be heard straight away. It will be seen straight away. Well, I think, the Minister will tell us what will happen to our foreign policy at that time.

Sir, there is another interesting dimension of our history. In 1962, we had the misfortune of having the Sino-Indian war. After the Sino-Indian war, an interesting thing happened. Some people took Jawaharlal Nehru for a ride. They put the same arguments. It is very interesting that the arguments repeated for justifying this arrangements are exactly the same which were used in 1963 to persuade Jawaharlal Nehru to let the Voice of America transmitter installed in North Bengal. Jawaharlal Nehru was a great man. He was an honest man. He did not really examine it at that time. He must have been under terrible pressure after the defeat. But, than, he comes to Parliament and he apologised to Parliament. He said "I made a mistake by this agreement." What did he say? I have his speech in Parliament. If you will kindly permit me to quote only one para from this, he says:

> "The need to strengthen All India Radio's external broadcasts had been repeatedly brought to the Government's notice, and this need became more urgent after the Chinese aggression towards the end of 1962, more particularly in the context of various venomous propaganda against the Government of India by the Chinese broadcasting service directed in various languages in the border areas of India and various Indian regions etc.etc."

I am quoting Jawaharlal Nehru again:

> "A decision was taken in February, 1962 to explore the possibility of obtaining a high-powered transmitter on reasonable terms from the countries where such transmitters were available. The enquiries were made."

Then, I skip. I come again to this.

He says:

> "As we felt stongly the need for a high-powered transmitter to counteract Chinese propaganda, the Government of India decided to ascertain terms of conditions on which such transmitters could be available, and, then, the voice of America was allowed."

Now, this is Jawaharlal's greatness. I am quoting this. Jawaharlal the great says:

> "Immediately thereafter, it became clear that this arrangement was not in consonance with the general policy and will, in a future pursuit, not only make Indo-US relations a subject of controversy inside India but will prejudice our main objectives of countering the anti-Indian propaganda broadcast from Chinese radio."

I stop here. This is a long speech. This also became a subject of vote of no-confidence in the Lok Sabha. Jawaharlal Nehru retraced his steps. Not only that he retraced. He had a Minister. Mr.

Gopala Reddy who was Minister of Information, a very upright man. The poor fellow was a victim of this. He was taken for a ride by a bureaucrat who also lost his job later on. This bureaucrat had told him all this. When the Kamaraj Plan came a couple of months later, Mr. Gopala Reddy had to go out. Mr. Gopala Reddy happened to be a good friend of mine. I went to meet him.

He said, and I still remember his words and I quote: "I was a victim of my own qullibility." That is what I am cautioning my dear old friend again Gullibility is not a quality. Gullibility is something which every Minister has to guard against.

In 1970, there was a big debate in the UNESCO. I had the privilege of representing India in 1970, 1972 and in 1974 debates. What was the difficulty at that time? The difficulty was that we were realising that the inflow of propaganda was far greater than our views outside. And satellite was coming. I have been raising this issue again and again. I am not going into the details of that debate, but I am going to tell you two interesting things. I got support from which country? Interestingly from Canada. I asked the Canadians why they were supporting us on this. They said, "We were the victims of nearness to America. Our culture is gone, our entire film industry is gone, our music is gone. Everything is Americanised. That is why we are protesting." And now we are not learning even from that! As a result of that debate the New Information Order resolution was passed. I would request the Minister to spare some time and read the Macbride Report, if he has not read it. It will educate him a great deal. As a senior I am telling him. Education about media getting internationalised is very important. And Macbride Report brings out very succinctly and the Minister must understand that.

Now, I come to the merits of this issue. A case has been made that if we had not entered into an agreement, Pakistan would have. I make an assertion that Pakistan does not have a satellite. I repeat, Pakistan does not have a satellite. Pakistan's own programmes are being broadcast from Manila and from elsewhere. Then where is the stake? I also join another issue. That is, CNN even today has an abiding agreement with the Shalimar set-up in Pakistan. And this was Shalimar which helped in creating a series of six films on "Kashmir is Burning". And who broadcast it? CNN. CNN broadcast a series of six programmes on "Kashmir is burning." Well, they did it for their own professional reason. I have no complaint. They have a right to do it. But, again I repeat, we need not be gullible. We must understand what is happening.

I tell you another interesting thing. Sir, I have got something to quote from the document that I have here. If you like I can quote it for you. CNN describes Kashmir as an Indian controlled part of Jammu and Kashmir. It is not considered as an integral part of India. And that is going to be broadcast from here again and again.

Now again a merit has been made in the Minister's statement that five minutes will be given now and we will have a large viewing and everything. What is the "World View" Programme of the CNN? They get for half-an-hour everyday inputs from all the media of the world. We were also getting it. And in these five minutes the 'Half-an-Hour World View' is broadcast at a lean time when very few people see it. But another thing that the Minister has not been told perhaps is that this in fact has to be handed over to them by the media of India in London. And India does not have arrangements to transmit it there. That is why it is not being shown even now. Later on, you might do it, but at the moment you don't have it.

And the worst thing I think, is that it is a bad financial deal. In India, at the moment, we have got seven Indian-based companies. I will read their names if you wish. They are in Malayalam, in Tamil—Tamil-3 and Tamil-4, Kannada, Business India and so on. All these seven companies are now getting their programmes beamed from Moscow and from Manila and elsewhere. And each one of them is paying $1.5 million and more to outsiders. While $1.5 multiplied by 7 is the outflow of foreign exchange, we are getting back $1.5 million.

All these gentlemen, all these comapnies have been refused permission to use the Indian transponder. We do not want Indians to use the Indian transponder. We do not want Tamil to be used here. We do not want Malyalam to be used. We do not want Kannada to be used here. We do not want English programmes to be shown here. So, somebody runs to Katmandu. Somebody runs to Moscow. Somebody goes to Manila. The CNN can get it but not the Indians.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): They might not be aware of this facility. They were refused because they were not availing of this facility.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: They have been knocking at the doors of the Doordarshan, but every time they have been refused permission. Even today they have been denied permission. I would like the Minister to contradict me on this because I have documents to prove this. I hope that the Minister would not take the risk or say something where I can prove him false.

The interesting thing is that unforunately the CNN is being projected as the 14th channel of Doordarshan. It confuses the viewers. He does not know whether he is seeing a Doordarshan or seeing an Indian programme of the CNN. When a confusion takes place, the credibility of your own media goes under. In the crisis you suffer most. In the crisis, things can happen, but by then if you do not build your credibility, people would not be knowing who you are. Your identity will be confused. At that time, if something else suits the other people, I do not know what will happen.

I will take one minute more. My friend, Shri Gurudas Das Gupta has pointed out about the American policy. I have written many articles, a series of them. Mr Murdoch, the emperor of media wanted to acquire a channel. He was refused permission saying that America does not feel safe with outsiders. We were very considerate because we are an open society, we are a globalised society. We are a society where anybody can come and take us for a ride. Thank you very much.

SHR S. JAIPAL REDDY: Brilliant speech.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Very good speech.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SATISH AGARWAL): Mr. Gujral, thank you very much for your enlightened speech. Now, Mr. Narayanasamy.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me this opportunity to participate in the discussion.

[The Vice Chairman (Shri Suresh Pachouri) In the Chair]

I heard the opinions expressed by the senior leaders and senior Members on Doordarshan and CNN tie-up. The picture that has been given by them is that we have not taken precautions on the Doordarshan and the CNN tie-up and it is not in accordance with the media policy. Today, when we compare our programmes with other programmes that

are being telecast by neighbouring countries and by countries in Asia, Europe, the United States and also the BBC, one should have a clear vision, clear perception. The information technology, through scientific research and development is trying to fulfil the aspirations of the people. It would like to give information quickly to the people in a succinct manner by developing the quality. Under the circumstances, Doordarshan has to compete with other agencies, foreign channels who are beaming the BBC news and the CNN news.

Some allegations have been made that the Government has deviated from the media policy and what was the necessity for having this Doordarshan and the CNN tie-up. Sir, I would like to submit that there is a criticism from some hon. Members in this House that the quality of the news programme, current affairs and entertainment programmes of Doordarshan has to be improved. In the last four years, drastic changes have been made. New channels have been introduced to attract viewers, when there is a competition going on between Doordarshan and the other channels which are beaming entertainment programmes like the Star TV and various other channels. I come from a Southern State where we have more than 32 channels which are operated by the private agencies which are beaming programmes in regional languages, in Hindi and also in English. They are giving programmes which are to the liking of the people. And, today, the CNN is one of the news agencies which give current news items immediately to the people. There is a feeling among Memebrs of Parliament that the CNN represents the Government of the United States. Though it is a U.S.-based company which is telecasting news items and current affairs in various countries, it is not a U.S. Government-owned organisation. It is a private company which is beaming programmes. And, secondly, even without the CNN and Doordarshan having a tie-up, these programmes of the CNN can be viewed by the viewers through the Russian Satellite, the Chinese Satellite and the Arab Satellite. You cannot prevent it. What is the difference between the CNN programmes telecast from other countries being viewed by the people of this country and the programmes telecast by a tie-up of Doordarshan being viewed, Doordarshan taking a better advantage of it? There is an accusation made that there is no editing in the programmes which are being telecast by the CNN and that we have no control. So are the programmes which we are going to telecast from the CNN, Doordarshan is going to telecast four other programmes. Definitely, they have no control over them. Worldwide viewers are there. The Indians who are living there would like to know what is going on in this country. They would like to see the news items for which we should make a provision. I think by this agreement, we will be able to fulfil the wishes and aspirations of the people who are living outside India in the Asian region.

I could not find any force in the argument made by Shri Gurudas Das Gupta that starting from the time of Pandit Nehruji, we have totally mortgaged our sovereignty and there is a threat to the unity and integrity of this country. I also saw the resolution passed by the BJP in this regard. When the global economy is fast developing on the one hand and there is the inquisitiveness on the other, of the people to get more information about what is going on in the world, India cannot be a silent spectator. Apart from giving the programmes to the people by Doordarshan through its own channel, my personal view is that the people viewing the CNN programmes through the tie-up will be in an advantageous position. The monetary benefit is secondary. But the thing is, a wrold-wide opinion is formed and the people feel that telecasting of the CNN programmes, especially the news item, is welcomed by

a large section of the society in this country. Therefore, I don't find any force in the argument made by the other side that by entering into this kind of agreement, India has lost its prestige in the international world. I would like to say one more thing which is very important and vital. We have no control over the programmes which are being telecast by the private agencies. We have adopted the 'open sky', policy and various private agencies take on lease the transponders and telecast several programmes in this country and the viewers accept it. As far as Doordarshan is converned, they are trying to compete with them and they attracted the Metro Channel that has come in. The percentage of viewers in respect of these items, especially Doordarshan Channel I and II, has gone up as compared to last year. That is the figure that has been given. The hon. Minister has given five or six points for the purpose of showing to this august House the advantages that Doordarshan will be getting by this tie-up. An allegation has also been made that neither Parliament nor Members of Parliament have been taken into confidence. To my knowledge, the hon. Minister, from time to time, briefed the Members of Parliament, attached to the Consultative Committee, on the progress that has been taking place. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: No.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Mathur, you can speak when your turn comes. Several companies had competed in this and, ultimately, the CNN was considered for the purpose of a tie-up. One of the points mentioned by the hon. Minister was that these financial terms are very favourable to Doordarshan. Apart from this, 1.5 million/dollars will be given every year as per this Agreement. Apart from taking the commercial telecast which they make on the basis of the Agreement, what will be the sharing pattern of the revenue between the CNN and Doordarshan?

I would like to know about that from the Minister. I would also like to know what the amount, that is being worked, out, would be. I welcome the decision and also the Agreement that has been entered into, by taking our technicians and personnel, who are involved in the news programmes, to the United States; for giving them proper training for the purpose of improving the quality of news. (*Interruptions*) That is the policy of the Communists. (*Interruptions*)

DR. BIPLAB DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): You can realise as to what the Communist Party policy is and what the Congress Party policy is. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, I would like to know how many personnel will be sent every year and whether there is any time-frame in which they will be able to contribute in improving the Doordarshan Programmes.

Sir, as far as the hon. Minister's statement is concerned, it has mentioned several points relating to the advantages which Doordarshan is getting, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether Doordarshan is telecasting the programmes of four others which they have agreed to take. While sharing the time between Doordarshan and CNN, apart from the news-item, what programmes would they like to telecast so that the people living in the Asian region are benefited? Have any facilities been provided for that purpose? Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister another important thing. While making the facilities available, in downlinking the programmes of CNN FROM ARABSAT and uplinking it with our INSAT 2B , what is the total amount involved in making this arrangement by Doordarshan and also in keeping and maintaining the technology here for that purpose? Who has provided this technology? Sir, this

agreement is made for a particular period. I would like to know whether they are going to extend the agreement; whether there is any clause in the agreement for this. Sir, there is an apprehension on the other side that Doordarshan consults other big companies on the matter of time-sharing. What is the policy of the Government of India relating to print media? On this subject discussions are going on. Several seminars are held, conferences are held and some political parties are making a lot of criticism. Therefore, I would like to know the policy of Govenment ralating to print media. The hon. Minister should tell us about the policy followed in this regard.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI (Delhi): Mr. Vice-Chairman, my Party, myself and most of us on this side are wholly opposed to the agreement entered into between Doordarshan and CNN. It was unnecessary, unfair, unequal and not in the public interest. If the Government had this facility, for which it had no use, it could have made the same available to Indian broadcasters and telecasters who often spend money to go abroad they have to run, from place to place, to Hongkong, Moscow and elsewhere. Why did the Government have to yield to foreign pressure?

I also submit that what the Government has done now runs counter to some of the good traditions of the ruling party itself. The Nehru Government had enunciated the media policy and kept away the foreign press. Pandit Nehru did not allow even the *New York Times* to come here. Sardar Patel discontinued the BBC Foreign Service. And here comes this Government calling itself Congress! I think, it is a defamation of the old original Congress, yielding to foreign pressure. At times an impression is given that the foreign media has come and we cannot stop and we are helpless. This is not true. There was any number of international telecommunication agreements. We have not invoked those agreements and the Government does not seem to be even aware of them. No foreign media can leave its footprints in a country without its permission. The trouble is that there is a certain weakness of will and lack of vision. Sir, this agreement is very unequal, four hours for DD and 20 hours for CNN. Not only that. I was very much surprised to hear that Doordarshan is not availing even these four hours. Its programmes cover only one-and-a-half hours on week days and on Sundays and holidays just three hours. Sir, they are not availing even these four hours. Moreover, they have not given us prime time. They have given us 7 A.M. and 10 P.M. As soon as the agreement was signed my party president issued a statement and our party came out with a regular resolution. A senior person from CNN called on me and he admitted that before the agreement was reached, they had access to three million homes. With the signing of the agreement, they had reached five million homes and very soon they would be reaching eight millions. As and when the Government gives them terrestrial facilities, they will be entering every sitting room in India. Sir, I asked this good man—I am not giving his name because I have not sought his permission to do so—"What happened on the opening day about the cow phenomenon, stray cattle being shown on the streets of Bombay?" Do you know that what he said? "Oh, it is a mistake of the light staff." I thought the CNN was supposed to be in the air for 24 hours, they were supposed to give new inforamation for 24 hours. Can they really say that they did not know what was coming? I asked him about the map. He said, "That was okay". Let the Minister say whether the map was okay or not. But I asked him, "who gave you that map? How did the map appear?" He said, "It appeared in a weather map". I asked, "Who gave you the weather map?" He said, "America". If they are showing the weather map of India, why cannot they use the map of the Meteorological Department of India? My

question is: Did they have to use the American Mat? Sir, I have read some of the literature that the CNN has been sending around; again and again they are referring to India as 'sub-continent'. The USA is twice the size of India. Have they ever referred to the USA as "sub-conti-

If not, it is not consultation? Sir, my information is that till the day this agreement was signed the Information and Broadcasting Minister himself had not seen it. My further information is that the file went straight from the PMO to the Secretary, I & B. I don't know whether the Prime Minister was giving some kind of a consolation prize to the American multinational since Enron was on its way out. I don't know. But the hon. Minister would better make this position clear. What makes it, all the more sinister is who presided over the Ministers Committee that okeyed the CNN Deal?Do you know, it was presided over by whom? Of course, Mr. Salve. He is the Minister for MNCs. He is hardly the Minister for Power now. He is Minister for American power in India.

I am very sorry to say that. Sir, I accuse the Government of India of emasculating our own electronic media. It is because our own media is so weak and it has been kept weak, that room has been left for others to bargein. I repeat what my good friend, Shri I.K. Gujral, had mentioned earlier: Why has the Prasar Bharati Act not been implemented? This Bill was passed by the Parliament and the President signed it. But the Government of India is sitting on it. Area not they not ashamed of it? Is this not an insult to the Parliament and to the President of India? The excuse is that they are thinking of amendments. Why don't they implement it now and amend it when they are ready with their amendments? Obviously, they are very slow of thinking. They will take not years, but decades, to come up with amendments. Let them implement the Act first. What does the Government say on the Delhi Rent Bill? The Minister says, "The Act has been passed and it will be implemented. If necessary, we will amend it in future." Why these double standards? Are they honest? Is it fair? Had our electronic media been independent as visualised in the Prasar Bharati Act, its standard would have improved. There would be excellence in it and nobody would bother to tune in CNN etc.

Sir, my good friend, Shri Narayanasamy, said, "This is not an American outfit. It has nothing to do with America. It is independent." In these matters nobody is independent. An American company, naturally, inevitably, will project the American point of view. An Asian Company will do the same thing and hopefully an Indian company would also do the same thing. So, the CNN will be projecting an American view of the world, fostering American values and promoting American interests. You just cannot help it. Recently, Russia had a problem with Chechnya. The CNN and all these foreign Western agencies support Chechnya, not Russia. Same is the problem in Yugoslavia. All these foreign agencies are siding with Bosnia against Serbia. Now, we in this country are in a fortunate position of being neutral on these issues. Why should our country be exposed to this partisan propaganda? They come out with Simpson's murder case. This gentleman murdered his wife. It is too bad. How are we interested in Simpsons's case? They are concerned about the Americans missing in action in Vicatnam. It is too bad, they went there and got killed. it is just too bad. But what is India's interest? Why should the CNN in India broadcast these things? We tend to be a simple-minded people, very simple-minded people. When CNN started some people came to me and said, "CNN is great. They show you how a rocket goes through the ventilator and hits the target in Iraq." They got the thrill of it. I must say that it was just not a thrill, it was also an implied threat that

is if anybody stands up to VSA this is what they can do to you. This was literally a case where the media was a message. But the Government of India seems to be blissfully unaware of it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SRI SURESH PACHOURI): Please conclude.

SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Please excuse me for a couple of minutes more.

There is a misunderstanding that we have signed an agreement with the CNN. We have not signed this agreement with the CNN. We have signed the agreement with Turner International Inc. That is an empire. The CNN is only a minor kingdom of it. I was curious to find out who this chap, Turner is. I found that he was a tycoon. As chance would have it, only yesterday I was reading the *Washington Post*. The *Washington Post* carried a review of a recent biography of Mr. Turner. Do you know what it says? The *Washington Post* of 5th August says:

> This gentlemen "has compulsively and somewhat joylessly chased women, brutalised his wives and children, betrayed his associate."

He is the boss of this association with which we have entered into some kind of a marriage. I will not be surprised if he betrays associates like you. I repeat "too" many people in India tend to be very simple-minded.

I would request the hon. Minister to read this book. It is a book written by Anthony Smith, a good American. The book is, "The Geopolitics of Information" —"How Western culture dominates the world." All those who are interested in the independence and excellence of the media should read this literature. What does this book say? On page 115, it says, "World power game has moved into the information phase." News is not just news. There is power behind the news. On page 134, it says, "We are at economic war with the rest of the world. The media is being used to influence people, make friends, collect information and promote business interests of their own country." A great professor, H.N. Brailford once said that the old imperialism sent out troops, conquered territories and then taxed the people. But the new imperialism does nothing of the kind. The new imperialism just lends money on interest and Brailford were around he would say that the new imperialism lends money on interest and shares news with the likes of hon. Minister of India. They do not understand what is happening to them. The media functions as sappers and Miners of the multinational corporations. They are the advance guards of MNCs. If this Government has any sense of honour, has any sense of self respect, it should cancel this agreement. Even Pandit Nehru, in his greatness had cancelled they very agreement with VOA which his Government had entered into. Even the Maharashtra Government has cancelled the Enron agreement. They had the guts to do it. I hope even this Government has the guts, the wisdom and the patriotism to cancel this agreement. Thank you very much.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज जिस दिन हम लोग इस सी॰एन॰एन॰ और दूरदर्शन के समझौते पर बहस कर रहे हैं, यह वही दिन है, 9 अगस्त 1942 का जिस दिन गांधीजी ने कहा था, विदेशियों भारत छोड़ो, अंग्रेजो भारत छोड़ो, हिंदुस्तान को अपने हाल पर छोड़ दो, हम एक नये हिंदुस्तान को बना लेंगे। आज 50-51 साल के बाद हिंदुस्तान कह रहा है, अंग्रेजो भारत आओ, चाहे वह अमेरिका का अंग्रेज हो, ब्रिटेन का अंग्रेज हो चाहे आस्ट्रेलिया का अंग्रेज हो—तुम हमारे पास आओ, तुम हमारी मदद करो तभी हम आगे बढ़ पाएंगे तभी यह देश आगे बढ़ पाएगा। एक अजीब स्थिति में आज इस दिन का यह मौका हमारे सामने है जब हम इस पर बहस कर रहे हैं। उससे भी बड़ी विचित्र स्थिति यह हो रही है कि ऐसा हर बार होता है इसी सदन के अंदर। चाहे वह मंत्री हो चाहे कांग्रेस के दूसरे सदस्य हों किसी में देशभक्ति की कमी है ऐसा

मैं नहीं मानता हूं लेकिन ऐसा माहौल बन रहा है कि हर दिन मल्टी नेशनल कंपनियों, विदेशी कंपनियों के बारे में हम बहस करते हैं। सारा सदन एक तरफ होता है, विदेशी कंपनियों के खिलाफ होता है पर दुर्भाग्य से कांग्रेस के लोग उन विदेशी कंपनियों के बचाव में खड़े होते हैं। यह एक विडम्बना है। इसमें किसका दोष है यह मैं नहीं जानता लेकिन जो नीतियां आ रही हैं इस देश में, जो बात हो रही है आज इस देश में, आज उन्हीं बातों का यह सबूत है कि दुनिया को यह मेसेज जा रहा है, दुनिया को यह बताया जा रहा है कि देश में इस सवाल के उपर विभाजन है। जैसा कि गुजराल साहब ने कहा माननीय मंत्री जी आप सब लोगों के सार्वजनिक जीवन को बहुत लम्बे समय से हम जानते हैं, उस लम्बे समय से जीवन का जो स्वरूप हम लोगों के सामने है वह यही है कि आप एक देशभक्त आदमी हैं, आपकी देशभक्ति पर किसी को अविश्वास नहीं है, ऐसा मैं मानता हूं लेकिन आखिर अचानक क्या हो गया। पार्लियामेंट के अंदर हम लोग इस पर बहस करने वाले थे। आपने चेयरमैन साहब को इसमें इन्वाल्व करने की कोशिश की जो हिंदुस्तान के उपराष्ट्रपति है। सारा मामला हो रहा था कि हम इस पर अपनी एक राय बनाएंगे, और अचानक एक दिन ऐसा हुआ जब आप दिल्ली में थे ही नहीं तो सी॰एन॰एन॰ और दूरदर्शन का समझौता हो गया। दुनिया ने टी॰वी॰ और अखबारों के माध्यम से जाना, हिंदुस्तान के लोगों ने भी इसको जाना। क्या हमारा हक नहीं था। इसलिए आप पर शक क्यों होता है, सरकार की नीयत पर शक क्यों होता है इसलिए कि आप चाहते थे कि पार्लियामेंट में बहस हो, आप जानते थे कि हिंदुस्तान का उपराष्ट्रपति एक ऐसी समिति के साथ है और वे इस 3.00 P.M. सदन के अध्यक्ष हैं, सभापति हैं। और आपकी इस मर्जी के खिलाफ किन लोगों ने सीएनएन के साथ समझौता किया? हमारा शक इसलिए पड़ता है। हमने इतिहास को बहुत पुराने दिनों में जिन्होंने देखा है, आजादी का अभी 50 साल भी नहीं बीता अंग्रेजों ने क्या जुल्म किए भारत की आजादी की लड़ाई में हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों पर वह दिन अभी भूले नहीं हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, गलती से में कुछ समय के लिए इस देश के विदेश मंत्रालय में भी काम कर चुका हूं और मैंने देखा है कि किस तरह से इन लोगों की हरकतें इस मुल्क में हुई। मैं सिर्फ इस सदन को और गुजराल साहब जैसे लोगों को विश्वास में लेकर यह बात कह रहा हूं कि यह घटना इस देश में घटी है या नहीं? आज वह मंत्री है यहां पर कि अमरीका का एम्बैसेडर यहां के एक मंत्री से मिलना चाहता था। उस मंत्री ने कहा कि मेरे पास समय नहीं है। मैं मिलूंगा नहीं। उस एम्बैसेडर ने गृह मंत्री के कमरे में जाकर दरवाजा खोल कर कहा कि मुझ से बात करो। क्यों बात नहीं करोगे? मैं बात करने आया हूं और वह मंत्री मजबूर होकर उस राजदूत से बात करता है। यह कितनी पुरानी घटना है। यह सारे लोगों को इस घटना की जानकारी है। यह क्यों हुआ? हम से कहा जाता है कि आप हम पर अविश्वास करते हैं, हमारी नीयत पर शक करते हैं। ...(व्यवधान) मैं नाम नहीं लेना चाहता, लेकिन मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि ये घटनाएं इस देश में घटी हैं और आज से कुछ ही वर्ष पहले घटी हैं। तो मैं यह आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब ऐसा माहौल सारी दुनिया में बना हो और एक बात सारी दुनिया में देखी जा रही हो तो हमारा शक क्यों न हो? कहा जाता है कि हमारा फायदा होने वाला है। एक बात तो गुजराल साहब से साफ कर दी कि पाकिस्तान का जो हौवा खड़ा किया गया था पाकिस्तान के पास तो वह शक्ति नहीं है जिसके साथ उनका अलांयस हो सकता था, कोई समझौता हो सकता था? हम से कहा जा रहा है कि हम दुनिया भर में इसको प्रचारित करेंगे। भारत को दिखायेंगे, भारत के बारे में बतायेंगे इस ट्रांसपोंडर की शक्ति हम हैं। साउथ एशिया के बाहर तो यह दिखाया हीं नहीं जा सकता यह पाकिस्तान, श्रीलंका और बर्मा के अलावा तो दिखाया ही नहीं जा सकता और हम से कह रहे थे यह वी॰ नारायणसामी कि सारी दुनिया में भारतीय जो हैं उनको दिखाया जाएगा। अपने आपको गुमराह करके कौन सी सफलता प्राप्त करना चाहते हैं? माननीय मंत्री जी, अभी

भी कोई बहुत विलम्ब नहीं हुआ है। इतिहास के उन पन्नों से अगर आप कुछ भी सबक लेना चाहते हैं, कुछ भी सीख लेना चाहते हैं, जो हम लोगों ने देखा है, आपने देखा है, हमारे पुरखों ने देखा है, तो इस समझौते को आज ही और अभी रद्द कीजिए। इसकी कोई जरूरत नहीं है। पैसा कुछ मिल जाएगा। पैसा मिलने के परिणाम क्या होते हैं, जरा इसको आपने देखा है? दुनिया में जो आपसे भी तेजी से चलने की जिन्होंने कोशिश की उनके परिणाम क्या हुए? आज से कुछ ही दिन पहले फिलिपींस के प्रधान मंत्री ने कहा? उन्होंने कहा कि यह स्टार टी॰वी॰, यह सीएनएन ने आकर हमारे देश की संस्कृति को बर्बाद कर दिया। सिंगापुर जो मॉडल माना जाता है, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज सारी दुनिया में इस बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के आने पर, आज सिंगापुर में स्टार टी॰वी॰ बंद कर दिया गया और वहां देखने की इजाजत

नहीं दी जा रही है। हर आदमी अपनी संस्कृति को बचाना चाहता है। हिन्दुस्तान अपनी संस्कृति के बारे में कौन सा राय रखना चाहता है इसके बारे में आपने कभी सोचा है? क्या आप मानते हैं कि जो आज कार्यक्रम दिखलाया जा रहा है स्टार टी०वी० पर या जो विदेशी कंपनियों के टेलीविज़नों पर वह इस देश की संस्कृति को नहीं मान्य है। याद रखिए, दो बातें एक साथ नहीं चल सकती। सीता-सावित्री की संस्कृति और यह स्टार टेलीविज़न, सी०एन०एन० टेलीविज़न दोनों साथ नहीं चल सकते। या तो आप अपनी संस्कृति को बचाए रख सकते हैं या इसके द्वारा अपने ही कारणों से आप इनके हाथों में कैद बनना चाहते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक बात और बहुत जोर-शोर से कही जा रही थी कि हिन्दुस्तान को सारी दुनिया से जोड़ दिया जाएगा। ग्लोबलाइज़ेशन हो जाएगा। क्या हम गुलामी के दिनों में जब ब्रिटिश हकूमत यहां थी तो सारी दुनिया से हमारा रिश्ता नहीं था क्या? ब्रिटिश हकूमत के बारे में कहा जाता था कि उसका सूरज डूबता ही नहीं है। कहीं सूर्योदय होता है तो कहीं अस्त होता है दूसरी जगह फिर ब्रिटिश हकूमत चल जाती है। तब हमारे साथ क्या सलूक होता था? क्या हिन्दुस्तान के लोग मारीशस में, लैटिन अमेरिका में या दूसरी जगहों में उनका इस्तेमाल किस रूप में किया गया? शेर के शिकार में हिन्दुस्तानियों को बांधा गया ताकि शेर उन पर झपटे और अंग्रेज गोली चलाता था शेर के शिकार में। यह हिन्दुस्तानियों के साथ में सलूक किया गया और आप कह रहे हैं कि बराबर की दुनिया में, ग्लोबलाइज़ेशन की दुनिया में अपने को ले जा रहे हैं। यह प्रोग्राम कितने दिनों का है, जो 5 मिनट का जिसका जिक्र हुआ था, वह दिखलाया जाएगा। वह तब दिखाया जाएगा जब पश्चिमी देशों में खास कर अमरीका में सारे लोग सो रहे होंगे। दो बजे रात या एक बजे रात, यह तो उनका टाईम है जिस टाईम पर वह दिखलाया जाएगा। कहा जाता है कि इस काम को करने से दूरदर्शन को पैसा मिला। दूरदर्शन को पैसा कहां मिला?

सी०एन०एन० को कहीं एडवर्टाइजमेंट मिल रहा है दुनिया में? आप ने अपना बाजार उन को समर्पित कर दिया, अपना मार्केट दे दिया। सौ फीसदी अपना हिस्सा दे दिया और उस को सौ फीसदी में पचास फीसदी, आप समझते हैं कि सी०एन०एन० आप को वापिस कर देगा। सौ फीसदी देकर पचास फीसदी देगा? दुनिया के किसी सौदागर ने ऐसा समझौता किया हो, यह मैं नहीं समझ पाता।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप ने घंटी बजा दी है और मैं भी कोई लंबा-चौड़ा भाषण नहीं करना चाहता। सारी बातों को कहने की कोशिश ज्यादातर लोगों ने की है, लेकिन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह दरखास्त फिर करूंगा और यह इसलिए कि मैंने शुरू में ही कहा कि मंत्रीजी आप की देशभक्ति पर हमें अविश्वास नहीं है। आज का समय और आज की तारीख इस बात की दुहाई देती है कि ऐसा अनुबंध जो कि आप के पदाधिकारियों के दबाव में और बहु-राष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के दबाव में हुआ है, उस अनुबंध को तोड़ा जाए और हिंदुस्तान को फिर से उस 9 अगस्त की परंपरा और गांधीजी की शहादत को याद में लेकर आप आगे बढ़ने की इजाजत दें, इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं और आप को धन्यवाद देता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सुरेश पचौरी): श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी।

SHRI P. UPEDNDRA (Andhra Pradesh): After him, my name was there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): It is not like that. Her name has come in place of Shri Ashok Mitra. In fact, she should have spoken before Shri Digvijay Singh.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: But, after him, my name was there.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURY): But their party had suggested that in place of Shri Ashok Mitra, she will speak.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल): धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की संसद की अवहेलना कर के, अपने विभाग से संबंधित स्थायी समिति तथा सलाहकार समिति को नजरंदाज कर के हमारे देश की सरकार और देश के सूचना और प्रसारण ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक मिनिट लूंगा। मैं सरला बहन के बोलने का विरोध नहीं कर रहा हूं, लेकिन नाम सब्स्टीट्यूट नहीं होते हैं। मैंने लिखकर दिया था कि विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा जी की जगह मलकानी जी बोलेंगे, लेकिन मलकानी जी को मल्होत्रा जी की जगह नहीं दी गयी और उन्हें चौथे नंबर पर बुलवाया गया। जब यह सीनियरिटी वहां पर नहीं हो सकती तो यहां कैसे हो सकती है?

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): मलकानी जी सीनियर हैं, मल्होत्रा जी से।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: मैंने कहा, लेकिन वह नहीं माना गया तो बाहर से किसी को सब्स्टीट्यूट करेंगे तो वह गलत है, लेकिन अब चूंकि आप ने सरला जी को बुलवा दिया है तो मैं उनका मुंह बंद नहीं कर सकता और फिर वह तो महिला है, उन को रोका गया तो सारी महिलाएं मेरे सिर पर चढ़ जाएंगी।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: माथुर साहब, मैं अपने वैध अधिकार के तहत ही बोलना चाहती हूं। मैं किसी के अधिकार का अतिक्रमण नहीं करना चाहती।

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर: अतिक्रमण तो कर लिया आप ने।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: बिल्कुल नहीं। मैंने तो उपसभाध्यक्ष जी के आदेश का पालन किया है और अगर उन का आदेश हो तो मैं अभी भी बैठ सकती हूं। उन के आदेश की मैं मुंतजिर हूं।

धन्यवाद उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय। मैं जिस बात की ओर माननीय सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रीजी का ध्यान आकर्षित करवाना चाहती थी, वह यह है कि देश की संसद की अवहेलना कर के, अपने विभाग से संबंधित स्थायी समिति तथा सलाहकार समिति को नजरंदाज कर के, राजनीतिक पार्टियों के विरोध की परवाह न करते हुए सी॰एन॰एन॰ के साथ उन्होंने जो एकतरफा समझौता किया है, यह समझौता हमारे देश के लोगों के साथ, हमारे देश की संसद के साथ एक बहुत बड़ा विश्वासघात है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज का दिन वह ऐतिहासिक दिन है जब भारत की जनता ने साम्राज्यवादियों के विरोध में निर्णायक लड़ाई का आव्हान किया था। आजादी के इसी आंदोलन के जरिए, आजादी की इसी लड़ाई के जरिए हमने स्वतंत्र और सार्वभौम भारत के विकास का एक प्रतीक सामने रखा था और स्वतंत्र और सार्वभौम भारत के मूल्य कौन से होंगे, उन मूल्यों को भी हम ने निश्चित किया था, लेकिन उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय मुझे बड़े दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि आजादी के इन 48 वर्षों के बाद हम ने अपने स्वतंत्रता आंदोलन के दौरान अर्जित तमाम मूल्यों को धूलिसात कर दिया है। और आज? आज हमारी सरकार विदेशी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियों के साथ इस वैश्वीकरण इस भूमंडलीकरण के दौर में जो ढांचागत समायोजन कर रही है, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि इस ढांचागत समायोजन का अर्थ यह हो रहा है कि हमारा ढांचा भरभर्रा कर गिर रहा है और यह ढांचा टिक पाएगा या नहीं टिक पाएगा, इस पर भी मुझे संदेह है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सन 1991 से 1995 तक चार कदम सूरज की ओर बढ़ने का दावा करने वाली हमारी सरकार सूरज की ओर एक कदम भी बढ़ पाई है, यह तो मैं नहीं कह सकती, लेकिन इस बात को दावे के साथ कह सकती हूं कि सरकार के पांव हमारे देश की जमीन से जरूर उठ चुके हैं, हमारे देश के लोगों से उसके संबंध जरूर कट चुके हैं। यह सरकार जिन नीतियों की ओर जा रही है, जो दिशा इसने पकड़ी है, वह दिशा इस बात का प्रमाण है कि आज हमारी इस सरकार को न तो हमारे देश के राष्ट्रीय हितों से कोई सरोकार है और न हमारे देश की अस्मिता से कोई सरोकार है।

महोदय, सी॰एन॰एन॰ के साथ जो यह समझौता किया गया है, इस पर हमारे सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री ने जो प्रस्ताव रखा है, उस पर मुझे बहुत आश्चर्य होता है। हमारे कांग्रेस के माननीय सदस्य नारायणसामी जी हमें बता रहे थे कि इससे कितना लाभ होगा, हम तकनीकी दुनिया में कितना आगे बढ़ जाएंगे। तो तकनीकी दुनिया में आज सूचना का क्या महत्व है और तकनीकी दुनिया आज सूचना को किस तरह से आजमाती है उसके बारे में मैं एक छोटा से उदाहरण देना चाहूंगी। तकनीकी दुनिया का सर्वोत्तम बादशाह गिना जाने वाला जापान, आज वहां इंफोरमेशन को किस रूप में देखा जाता है, इसका छोटा सा उदाहरण यहां मैं रखना चाहूंगी जापान में कहा जाता है, मैं जनरल आफ जापानी ट्रेड एंड इंडस्ट्री से आपको यह हवाला दे रही हूं।

> "A sophisticated information oriented society in which information circulates smoothly, thanks to telecommunications is not complete in itself. When information flows, people, goods and money also flow. When information about a product is disseminated, as in advertising, people go and buy it. The flow of information is accompanied by physical flow and cash flow."

महोदय, यह है इंफोरमेन की असलियत, जिसके बारे में हमारे मलकानी जी जिक्र कर रहे थे कि आज किस तरह विदेशी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनियां इंफोरमेशन के जरिए,

सूचना के जरिए काम कर रही है। सूचना को आज एक पुण्य में बदल दिया गया है, एक वस्तु में बदल दिया गया है, एक कमोडिटी में बदल दिया गया है और इसके जरिए आज अपने व्यापार को वह बढ़ा रहे हैं। इसके जरिए हमारे जैसे देशों में अपनी संस्कृति को खड़ा करना चाहते हैं। ऐसे में सी०एन०एन० जैसे कंपनी के साथ समझौता क्या उचित है? सी०एन०एन० से हमें बहुत सारे कागजात मिले हैं। मैं इस बहस में नहीं जाना चाहती कि सी०एन०एन० क्या है, क्या नहीं है। सी०एन०एन० अगर अपने न्यूज बुलेटिन में बंबई को दिखाते हुए मवेशियों को दिखाता है और फिर कहता है कि शायद वह भारत की संवेदनशीलता को नहीं जानता। अगर महात्मा गांधी के बारे में स्टार टी०वी० कुछ कहता है या सी०एन०एन० जम्मू कश्मीर के नक्शे को गलत दिखाता है तो उसके बारे में आप क्या कहेंगे, कि वह भारत के बारे में शायद जानता नहीं है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं यह कहना चाहूंगी कि यह विदेशी कंपनियां, जो आज अपनी इस तकनीक के जरिए हमारे जैसे देशों पर अपना प्रभुत्व का जाल फैलाती जा रही है, क्या यह हमारे अब तक के मान, मूल्य और चली आ रही नीतियों का उल्लंघन नहीं है। आप मीडिया पालिसी की बात कर रहे है। मुझे आश्चर्य होता है, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कि हमारी जो मीडिया के ऊपर एक उपसमिति बनी हुई है उस उप-समिति ने अभी अपनी कोई रिपोर्ट भी नहीं दी है। प्रसारण माध्यमों के बारे में आजादी के आंदोलन के दौरान तथा स्वतंत्र भारत में हमारे राष्ट्रीय नेताओं की जो समझ थी, उस समझ को पूरी तरह खारिज करके आज हमें यह बताया जा रहा है कि इसके जरिए हम हमारे जैसे देश के खिलाफ, जो हमारे विदेशी पड़ौसी देश हैं और हमारे खिलाफ? शत्रुतापूर्ण प्रचार कर रहे हैं, हम उनको उसका जवाब देंगे। पाकिस्तान का खौफ, पाकिस्तान का हौव्वा दिखाया जा रहा है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगी कि यह सी०एन०एन०, जिसके साथ आपने समझौता किया है और जिसकी केपेसिटि दक्षिण एशिया

के कुछ देशों तक है, उसके जरिए आप पाकिस्तान का मुकाबला करेंगे? क्या सी०एन०एन० आपको इस बात की इजाजत देगा, आपको किसी भी देश के खिलाफ कुछ भी बोलने का अधिकार देगा? आपका यह जो एग्रीमेंट है, आप कहते हैं कि सी०एन०एन० के जरिए हम मुकाबला कर लेंगे, सी०एन०एन० क्या कहता है? सी०एन०एन० ने इसी एग्रीमेंट में कहा है कि हम किसी भी देश के खिलाफ कोई भी इस तरह का प्रचार नहीं कर सकते। आप सी०एन०एन० से कैसे यह उम्मीद कर सकते हैं कि आप जो भी कहेंगे, वह सी०एन०एन० प्रसारित करेगा और आपको जो समय दिया है सी०एन०एन० ने, आपके पास कोई भी सम्पादन सी सुविधा नहीं है। एग्रीमेंट क्या कहता है? आपका एग्रीमेंट यह कहता है कि सी०एन०एन० आपके प्रोग्रामों की गुणवत्ता की जांच करेगा, आपके प्रोगामों की व्यवसायिकता कितनी है, मार्किट वेल्यू कितनी है, उसकी जांच करेगा और उसकी जांच करने के बाद में सी०एन०एन० यह निश्चित करेगा कि आपको कौन सा समय दिया जाए। यानी वह मनमाने ढंग से समय में रद्दोबदल कर सकता है और आप कहते हैं कि हम पांच मिनट के जरिए सारी दुनिया को भारत की छवि दिखायेंगे। होगा क्या, आपने तो हमारे दूरदर्शन को भी उसके हवाले कर दिया, दूरदर्शन के डीडी-1 से, डीडी-2 से भी वह प्रसारित करेगा और एक पूरा ट्रांसपोंडर तो उसके हवाले कर ही दिया है और आप आशा करते हैं कि हम इस सी०एन०एन० के जरिए हमारे खिलाफ जो प्रचार हो रहा है, उसका मुकाबला कर सकेंगे। आश्चर्य होता है, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, कि सी०एन०एन० खाली न्यूज को देखेगा और एग्रीमेंट में क्या कहा गया है, मैं पढ़ना चाहूंगी, एग्रीमेंट में कहा गया है कि:—

The parties shall promote to consult each other from time to time on movements and development in the Indian television market.

भारतीय टेलीविजन के बाजार पर यह नजर रखेगा। आश्चर्य की बात है कि भारतीय टेलीविजन के बाजार पर नजर रखकर कि इसके बाजार की वेल्यू क्या है, सी०एन०एन० जिस तरह चाहे अपने पांव बढ़ाएगा। तो, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा यह कहना है कि आज हमारी यह सरकार जिस दिशा की ओर आगे बढ़ रही है, मैं समझती हूं कि यह इस सरकार की दिशा सरासर तौर पर हमारे अब तक के मान-मूल्यों के विरुद्ध है और हमारे देश की स्वतंत्रता, हमारे देश की राष्ट्रीय अस्मिता और हमारे देश की सुरक्षा पर आज इस सरकार ने सबसे बड़ा खतरा पैदा कर दिया है। जब अमेरिका इजाजत नहीं दे सकता, इंग्लैंड इजाजत नहीं दे सकता तो भारत जैसा देश कहता है कि हम इजाजत दे देंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय को याद दिलाना चाहूंगी कि अभी एक वर्ष भी शायद नहीं हुआ,

"हीरो कप" टूर्नामेंट के दौरान एक विवाद उठा था। तब हमारे यही मंत्री महोदय सदन में आए थे कि एक विदेशी कम्पनी को कैसे अपलिंकिंग की सुविधा दे दी बंगाल की क्रिकेट एसोसिएशन ने? तब इन्होंने सम्प्रभुता का सवाल उठाया था देश की और हमने साथ दिया था कि नहीं हमारे देश के कानूनों की धत्ता बताकर अगर कोई विदेशी कम्पनी आती है तो यह हमारे देश की सम्प्रभुता के विरुद्ध है और इसके बाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज उन्हीं मंत्री महोदय ने पाला बदल लिया है। आज हमारे देश की सम्प्रभुता को बेचकर विदेशी कम्पनियों को सौंप दिया गया है हिन्दुस्तान को, कि आइए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश की सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने बहुत अच्छा निर्णय लिया था वायु तरंगों के बारे में कि वायु तरंगें हमारी सार्वजनिक सम्पत्ति हैं और इस सार्वजनिक सम्पत्ति पर एक पब्लिक रेगुलेटरी बॉडी, सार्वजनिक संप्रभु निकाय होना चाहिए इसको निर्देश करने के लिए। लेकिन हमारी सरकार की नीति क्या है? आज तक हमारी सरकार उसको रूप भी नहीं दे पाई। प्रसार भारती की हत्या की इन्होंने, एयर टाइम कमेटी की हत्या की इन्होंने। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं पूछना चाहूंगी कि हमारी सरकार का रवैया क्या है? हमारे मंत्री जी कह रहे हैं कि जो सी०एन०एन० स्टाफ है, वे दूरदर्शन के कर्मचारियों को ट्रेनिंग देंगे। हमारी सरकार क्या कर रही है? हमारे प्रोडक्शन स्टाफ के प्रति सरकार का क्या रवैया है? लगातार आन्दोलन चल रहे हैं। हमारे एनाउंसर स्टाफ के प्रति सरकार का क्या रवैया है? जिन कारीगरों की, जिन कार्यकर्ताओं की, जिन कर्मचारियों की कार्यक्रम बनाने में भागीदारी होती है उनको दूर रखा जाता है, उनको कोई तरक्की नहीं दी जाती और इंजीनियरों को तरक्की दी जाती है, यह कौन सी नीति है? मैं जानना चाहूंगी मंत्री महोदय से कि आप जिस नीति पर चल रहे हैं, आपने हमारे देश की संस्कृति को, आपने हमारे देश की राष्ट्रीय अस्मिता को सरासर विदेशी साम्राज्यवादियों के हाथों में बेचने के लिए यह समझौता किया है और पूरे चार वर्षों में आप इसी दिशा में गए हैं। यही मंत्री महोदय थे जिन्होंने कहा था कि हम विदेशी मीडिया को आने नहीं देंगे। ..(**समय की घंटी**).. उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बहुत गंभीर मामला है। विदेशी समाचारों को हम हिन्दुस्तान में नहीं आने देंगे, यह लगातार हमारे मंत्री जी कह रहे थे। और आज इसी बिनाह पर फाइनेंसियल टाइम्स और बिजनेस स्टेंडर्ड के बीच में हुए समझौते को नकार दिया गया था। इससे हमारे हिन्दुस्तान की सांस्कृतिक अस्मिता कहां रहेगी, समाचारों के क्षेत्र में हमारी स्वतंत्रता कहां रहेगी? क्या हम पूरब को पश्चिम की नजरों से देखेंगे? उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे अभी विदेश जाने का मौका मिला था एक कांफ्रेंस के दौरान। मैंने देखा कि वहां लोग भारत की तस्वीर क्या पेश करते हैं। वह भारत को क्या समझते हैं। आज भी वह यह समझते हैं कि भारत एक आदिकाल में रहने वाला देश है। वहां भारत की पहचान के रूप में मैंने देखा—वहां एक प्रदर्शनी लगी हुई थी। पश्चिम की नजरों से भारत को देखते हैं। भारत की पहचान के रूप में मैंने देखा कि एक साधु बनाया हुआ है जो टीका लगाए हुए तथा धूनी जमाए हुए हैं और लिखा हुआ है—इंडिया। दिस इज इंडिया। यही भारत का चित्र आप कहलवाना चाहते हैं? क्या यही भारत है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बहुत अफसोस है कि हमारे माननीय सदस्यों ने कई बातें कहीं। तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहूंगी कि हमारे देश की सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने जो आदेश दिया, उस आदेश की रोशनी में क्या यह अच्छा नहीं होता कि वह निकाय जो रेग्यूलेटरी बॉडी बनकर आता, स्वतंत्र बॉडी वह जो निर्णय लेता। उसको निर्णय लेने का अधिकार था। हमारे मंत्री महोदय को यह अधिकार नहीं था। वह तो अभी प्रारूप भी नहीं बना पाए। महोदय, प्रारूप तो बन नहीं पाया और हमारी सरकार ने संसद को धता बताकर राजनीतिक पार्टियों के विरोध की परवाह न करते हुए ऐसा समझौता कर लिया। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं समझती हूं कि यह समझौता हमारे राष्ट्रीय हितों के विरुद्ध है, हमारी जनतांत्रिक परम्पराओं का इसके जरिए उल्लंघन किया गया है और अगर इसी दिशा की ओर बढ़ते गए तो उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे यह कहना पड़ेगा कि यह सांस्कृतिक उपनिवेश के रास्ते को प्रशस्त करेंगे। मैं इन समझौते का तीव्र विरोध करती हूं और मैं चाहती हूं कि इसको रद्द किया जाए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, when this agreement was signed, I was in the United States at that time and I was shocked. I was shocked not because of the contents of the agreement but because the Doordarshan and the I&B Ministry, who have often been accused of sluggish and knee-jerk reaction to the development in the communication field, took such a bold and momentous decision so soon and implemented it. I also feel any of the

Ministers whether it was Mr. Gujral or I or Mr. Advani or anybody else, would have been taken the same decision.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: I beg your pardon. Only you could have taken this decision.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I would have been more sensible in that way. The problem is that many friends, who have quoted the previous precedents, the age-old policies, starting from Sardar Patel, Pt. Nehru and others, forget about the far-reaching changes which are taking place in the communication field and the inevitability of certain decisions. That is the main point. Then why should there be a change in the industrial policy, why should there be a change in the economic policy? Why are you implementing these changed policies? This is also one of those things. I quote from the *Telegraph* — New Delhi, sensible, bowed — to double — barrelled inevitability — The first was economic and the second is technological". It is inevitable. You cannot stop it. Could you stop the STAR TV? Could you stop the ZEE TV? Today if you do not give them these facilities, some other countries in the world may give them these facilities. They can get it transferred to somewhere else. Parties and gentlemen were pleading that there should be an open door policy in this. Electronic Media should be autonomous and there should be competing channels. They have all along been pleading that media should be autonomous. Why should there be a furore over this now? In 1989-90, there was a demand that there should be more channels, there should be more and more openness. It was said that they did not trust the Doordarshan news and, therefore, there should be other channels of news. This is one of those facilities which has been given to the people to have a different version of world news. You take it or leave it. Our people are not so gullible that they are carried away by any news of the BBC. They cannot be carried away by the news of the CNN also. The CNN has been in this country since 1989. There is nothing wrong in this. There is nothing to be diffident about it. If I had been in the place of Shri K.P. Singh Deo I would have defended this agreement with much more vehemence. What are we losing in this? After all, you are giving another opportunity to the people, the new-hungry people in this country, to have news around the world. Now you are saying that they will influence us. Mr. Gujral must know very well that they are not going to produce the news in this country. They are only relaying. We can understand if they are being given the facility to produce the news here and broadcast or telecast from here. Whatever they are giving through the Soviet satellite or the Chinese satellite, they will be doing the same thing through the Indian satellite. Why are you making a furore over this? In fact, I feel there is an advantage in this. Suppose they put out a wrong news, within 24 hours we can control them. You have four hours in your hand, you can contradict it. You put your own version. They are also bound to carry that. That way it is more advantageous to this country to give CNN such a facility. The people in America, the NRIs in America and Britain, were boisterous over this. They are feeling that at least now they could get the Indian news through the CNN International.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Can Americans see it first?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Ultimately, it is going to come because they are going to take the clippings from us. They can include more and more Indian news. Ultimately, they are going to bargain with the CNN International to relay Doordarshan news to the entire world. That is the prospect which you should not forget about.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Who will listen to it?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I listened to you patiently. You please listen to me. You can contradict me later. By using strong words like "sell-out" "against national interest", "security consideration", "national consideration" etc. no useful purpose is served. There is no cultural imperialism. What is being put out by the Star T.V., we are all worried about that. We are worried about such programmes and not about the news programmes or the current affairs programmes. Do something about that. We have discussed this issue. Mr. Gujral also was there. He is in one of the meetings. We are really worried about certain programmes coming through the Star T.V. Where we should make noise, we are not making. And where we should not make noise, we are making noise. I should also tell Mr. Gujral and other friends that India is not the first country to give such facility to CNN. I will give you two or three examples. Russia, which all of us are very fond of, has provided that facility. The CNN has a domestic, terrestrial channel in Russia — the first non-Soviet, non-Russian network to extend this facility.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are fond of the Soviet Union and not of Russia.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Okay, then come to China. The Turner International are the lessees of two transponders on Apstah-I which is overwhelmingly owned by various Government departments of the People's Republic of China. One transponder is being used by the CNNI and the other is used for cartoon programmes in the Chinese language. So China has given two transponders.

SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR: But earlier they had cancelled it. Now they have got two transponders.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Please don't interrupt.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: The CNNI is distributed by the Asahi T.V. on one of its latest channels and the Asahi T.V. is paying to the CNNI for relaying their news. It is the other way round here. They are paying us here. But Japan is paying them. After all, CNN is serving 210 countries. In many countries, they have taken the transponders and giving the news. There is nothing to be worried about it. Some friends said that it was done in a very secret manner and that there was no transparency. I don't agree with that. This was going on from 1993. Everybody knew about that. There were discussions in newspapers and outside also. The party leaders took part in a discussion, maybe, a short discussion in the Chairman's Room. And people gave their opinions on that. I was also there. What is secret in this? Where is the question of bypassing the Parliament? Do you mean to say that every single joint agreement in every Ministry should come to Parliament for its approval? Where is the precedent? Where is the rule? Has it been the practice here? So many joint sector companies are coming. So many agreements are being entered into by the Commerce Ministry and other organisations. Are they being submitted to Parliament for prior approval? This is a very small thing where the transponder is being shared. Do you mean to say that it should be approved by the Parliament? Let us be reasonable also. Tomorrow, where is the limit for Parliament's control over the Excecutive and the administrative matters? (*Interruptions*) I think so, in my view.

There is another thing. As I said earlier, they are bound to take clips from Doordarshan, our own news, and also show them in their news bulletins. And that is also one of the advantages. As far as the revenue part is concerned, I am not very much worried about how much revenue we get, whether 1.5 million dollars or 50 per cent of the advertisement revenue. That also is not a big thing

which should be gloated about. There is one more thing. It is not that we are only giving space on the transponder. We are also taking. For example, for our Doordarshan International, we have taken time from ZEE-TV, who also have taken from Star-TV. We are using it for South Asian and South-East Asian programmes. There is nothing wrong. These are all purely commercial agreements, sharing each other's technologies. It will only help us. For example, CNN held a camp here for our Doordarshan correspondents and others some two or three years ago. It helped us on how to project news and how the news should be presented and all that. It is a purely technical matter.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, will the hon. Member yield for a while?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I am not yielding.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Indian specialists were coached by the people from CNN! This is the level of discussion that we are having. It is from a person who was a member of the Cabinet.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: There is nothing wrong in sharing the experiences.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: He said educating...

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Please do not distrub me like this. There is nothing wrong in sharing the technologies and these benefits.

Sir, another thing is, our country is a media-crazy country. So many companies are vying with each other because our market is growing. Now we have 250 million households having their own T.V. sets. There are 16 million households having cable T.V. There are 14 million households which are served by the satellites. Therefore, there is a competition from among the world television companies to come to India and have this facility. It is not the CNN alone. The BBC wants it. The MTV wanted it. The French channel wanted the facility on this. They are still competing. And we are going to have INSAT-2C. It is coming shortly. We will have 12 transponders on that. And there is competition for that. When many more companies are coming forward to ask for the transponder's time, what is wrong in that? Our scientists are putting these satellites. There is a spare capacity. You loan it. You earn money. And if more and more people come here and project their programmes, let them have it. What is wrong in that? Why should we shut our doors from these programmes? I fully support this thing. We should leave this frog in the well policy. We should be bold enough to experiment with these things, and take these things.

Sir, I only quote from an editorial from the 'Telegraph'. It said:

> "Countries that insist on preserving the myth of national media do nothing but ensure their isolation from the rest of the world. A protected national media, especially one dificient in resources and technology, is a national handicap. The CNN-Doordarshan hook-up is not a perfect match or above criticism. But the pragmatism and confidence it embodies are a step in the direction which Indian media needs to go."

This is an editorial in the 'Telegraph'.

Finally, before I close, I would like to mention one or two other things. About Prasar Bharati...

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: No more editorials? Only 'Telegraph'?

SHRI P. UPENDRA: I picked it up. You pick up something else, if you want.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That too from West Bengal.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: About Prasar Bharati, Mr. Gujral has spoken, and others also mentioned it. I piloted that Bill, and there was a rare unanimity in regard to that Bill. But, today, I feel we have passed that stage. In 1989, the concern was the misuse of the media and the autonomy which we demanded. Today, the question of autonomy has gone to the background because there is more autonomy, and more channels have come, more news is available from competing channels ZEE-TV is giving news. You are getting the BBC news. Very few listen to Doordarshan News nowadays. Even on Dordarshan, private people are putting out their news and current affair items. Therefore, today, you must have a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill because the situation has changed. Today, more satellites have come. Tomorrow, you may have small TV stations and radio stations at the local level, at the state level, at the university level, at the autonomous bodies level. They may want to have small radio and TV stations.

Therefore, the whole thing has to be seen from this point of view. I fully support Saralaji's demand that we must have a National Media Policy and a comprehensive Broadcasting Bill must be brought forward. We had suggested this. Recently, some of us met and prepared an outline which was published in some of the newspapers, as to how this Broadcasting Bill should be drafted. There should be a National Broadcasting Commission to decide all these matters. There should be a Standards Council. There should be a Complaints Council. There should also be a Licensing Authority to licence not only the private channels and the local channels, but Doordarshan should also be brought under the control of this Licensing Authority. That can become the Prasar Bharati, the public broadcasting system, to take care of all the social programmes and other things, not merely depending on entertainment.

With these observations, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I fully support the agreement entered into between Doordarshan and the CNN. Thank you.

SHRI JAGMOHAN (Nominated): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I think whatever points I wanted to make—a lot of them—have already been made and, therefore, I would not like to repeat those. Mr. Gujral has given the entire historical perspective and put forward excellent arguments in regard to what should have been done.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Gujral's was a classic speech.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: I fully agree with you.

Sir, the main point I wanted to make is this. There is a new culture of administrative decision—making which has come in this country. Some very important decisions are taken somewhat surreptitiously and when they are discussed and their implications are brought out, some sort of an explanation is given here. Something is done in a manner which never used to be done before.

The other day, there was a discussion in this House on Enron, a very important project. It was said that all the points made here had been adjudicated upon. Actually, only one point was adjudicated upon. These are dubious ways. It was said that the court had adjudicated upon all these points. A sort of impression is sought to be created in the country that all these points which the Opposition had made had been taken into account by the court of Judicature. Sir, I saw the judgement. It had only dealt with one basic issue, i.e. the scope of judicial review. It dealt with none of the points which were mentioned here by us. It only

dealt with the scope of judicial review. The question is: to what extent judiciary should intervene in the decisions of administration and whether the judiciary is justified in substituting its own judgement for the judgement of the Executive in a given situation? I think it is only in certain extreme cases that the judiciary should strike it down.

I do not understand this type of culture. There was a certain policy, as Mr. Gujaral has very ably brought out. If there was to be a change in it, you could have come before us. The member who just spoke, a former Minister, said that changes have taken place. Well; we also know that changes have taken place. But the question is: why should you not have taken all these things into consideration and said: 'We want to change this policy; these are the changes that have taken place and, therefore, we want to change the policy in this regard? We are also reasonable. We are also concerned with this.

My point is, this is a new type of culture. This is a new culture of decision-making which has developed. This is something which I cannot understand. I do not have any personal knowledge. Allegations have been made here that the decision was taken without taking into confidence the Minister concerned. It is said that it came from a particular officer, from a particular cell, and then it was handed over to the Ministry to take a decision. This, by itself, is a very sad reflection.

My second point is, I really do not understand whether one fully appreciates the culture of neo-colonialism, the new pattern of power that is emerging, the new power structure that is emerging, at the international level. I have nothing against the Americans. I have nothing against the CNN. They are working in their own interests and we, in fact, appreciate it, from their point of view. They are putting their best foot forward. It is our weakness that enables them to do what they like. I must remind you that the American President says, "Our emblem is eagle. We have to swoop at the target if the target is willing to expose itself."

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: They have made it very clear that they have their own interests.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Therefore, they have their own interests. let us not become a complete tool in the hands of others. We must understand the nature of new-Colonialism. They want to establish their own power. They want to have complete dominance. Even during the colonial period, there was globalisation and marketisation. We are assigned a subsidiary role, and they were assigned a superior role. There was a role for us also. We also benefited a little from the Western technology and Western things, but the point is what role we were assigned in that overall international structure. Therefore, we should completely understand what is happening in the world today.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri V. Narayanasamy) ***In the Chair.]***

The nature of this new-colonialism is that we must control the minds of the people. By manipulation of the minds of the people, we can have everything. ...*(Interruptions)*.

If you don't mind, please. I will be very brief. So, let me not be disturbed. ...*(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Narayanasamy is actually a friend of mine. ...*(Interruptions)*...

No, no, I have no objection. If he stops me, I will stop.

Sir, the point I am making is that we must understand the nature of new-colonialism that wants to operate by manipulation of minds and by brainwashing.

So, I personally feel that every hour, through this vulgarisation of our minds, whether Doordarshan apes it or they bring it directly, our country's culture whatever little has remained of it, is being undermined totally. Every day, practically every hour, we, in our own country, are producing new agents of neo-colonialism. So, all that I have to suggest is that we are not understanding this. We should at least try to comprehend the underlying situation and try to do something in the matter.

The third point which I wish to make is this. Well, I have nothing as I have said, against CNN or any other company of this type, which is dealing with information or media. Their method is very sweet. They just thrust that as a thin end of the wedge and when they have totally controlled it, they tell you what their real purpose was. There is a line in Macbeth which says:

> "Win us that honest trifles, only to betray us in the deepest consequences."

All that I want to say is: don't get betrayed in greater consequences by getting Sl. 5 million or by being shown this or that or by getting this thing or that thing. You have to get an overall view. You must be cautious whether you are going to be betrayed in greater consequences in the long run or not. I don't think that there is application of mind. I do not blame others. In regard to Kashmir also, I have said that we are our worst enemies. We have aided and abetted Paksitan in playing this game. Now, let us not aid and abet other people in dominating other spheres of our economy, other spheres of our culture and other spheres of our social life. Let us remain Indians.

We have marched for 5,000 years. We have accumulated a lot of muck and muck on our bodies. Instead of washing that, we are bringing in new muck. We are getting the worst of both the worlds. Instead of learning good things from the Western civilisation, we are learning the worst of the Western civilisation. We are not learning their discipline. We are not learning their attitudes and their capacity to pay taxes. That is why we have more consumerism and more environmental degradation. Everything is happening.

My point was mainly this. A lot of examples were given by my friends... *(Time bell)*

I will take only one minute. I knew that you were going to ring the bell.

I have four or five points, but I will skip them. I will mention only one point.

It was asked: Why do we bother if they come on Doordarshan?

They were already functioning from various Star channels. Why are we lending respectiability to it by giving our own Doordarshan Chennel to them? It is the issue of lending respectibility and credence. When some foreign television gives something, we always say it is propaganda, but when it will come on our own channel, what will be the susceptibility of our people? That is the issue, not the issue that others are coming, so we cannot do it. I also do not understand it. Since we do not have this, we should not have that. Therefore, let other people come and manage our affairs. What is this going on? Instead of saying we should be more creative and constructive, we should say, "All right. Since we have no capacity, let them do that." This is a country which said that we will make India mighty in thought, mighty in deed, mighty in culture, mighty in service to humanity. We will give a new style of life. We had Vivekananda who said that we would have a new design for life. And we have forgotten all this in three years, four years or five years! What is our commitment? I want to ask you today what our national vision is. Tomorrow you will take another policy dicision and decry whatever little vision we have.

Since you have rung the bell, I think I should stop here.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय और सी० एन० एन० के साथ जो समझौता हुआ, उसके बारे में हम विचार करे रहे हैं। बहुत अच्छी-अच्छी बातें उभर कर आई। उन्हीं में से मैं कुछ बातें आपके माध्यम से सदन के सामने रखना चाहता हूं। मलकानी साहब ने बहुत अच्छी बात कही कि आज के दिन में सूचना ही शक्ति है, इनफॉरमेशन इज़ पावर। उसका समर्थन सरला माहेश्वरी जी ने बहुत अच्छी तरह से जापानीज़ इनफॉरमेशन को कोट कर के बताया। मैं भी मानता हूं कि सूचना एक शक्ति है और एक ऐसी शक्ति है कि आज के दिन में वर्तमान युग में चंगेज खान को मंगोलिया से अरबी घोड़े पर चढ़ कर नहीं आना पड़ेगा। कोई हमलावर या व्यापारी को हमारे देश में आने के लिए न तो घोड़े की जरूरत है और न पानी के जहाज़ की और न सड़क की और न ही हवाई जहाज की। हमारी सूचना को ग्रहण करने की शक्ति या तो वायु तरंगे हैं या दूसरा हमारा संचार विभाग है। दोनों के माध्यम से सूचना इकट्ठी की जा सकती है। उस शक्ति का प्रयोग किया जा सकता है। शक्ति दी जा सकती है और शक्ति ली जा सकती है। यही कारण है कि आज सिर्फ भारत ही नहीं सारे विश्व के सामने एक बहुत बड़ा प्रश्न चिन्ह खड़ा है। इन अनजान हमलावरों का डर बहुत सारे सदस्यों को है कि हमारी संस्कृति, हमारी सभ्यता खराब हो सकती है। सी०एन०एन० हमारे देश में अब आने लगा है परन्तु हमारे देश के नौजवान जीन-पेंट बहुत दिनों से पहन रहे हैं, जीन-टी शर्ट और जीन पेंट बहुत दिनों से पहन रहे हैं। यह हमारी सभ्यता और संस्कृति का हिस्सा नहीं थे। और भी बहुत सारी चीज़ें है जो हम लोगों ने ग्रहण की है। अपनी संस्कृति और सभ्यता को छोड़ने के पीछे सूचना या प्रसार का कितना योगदान है, यह समझने की जरूरत है।

जो कुछ मुद्दे सामने आए हैं, उसमें पहला मुद्दा गुरुदास दासगुप्ता जी ने बड़े ज़ोर से कहा कि हमारे देश की सुरक्षा को खतरा है। भारत कोई छोटा सा देश नहीं है। 90 करोड़ लोगों का देश है जिसका अपना एक इतिहास है, अपनी अस्मिता है, सभ्यता है, संस्कृति है। एक दम डर जाएं कि वह आ गया, मैं भागूं, ऐसा कुछ नहीं है। न तो हमारी सभ्यता को खतरा है और न हमारी संस्कृति को कोई खतरा है और न हमारी सुरक्षा को खतरा है। सुरक्षा को खतरा कैसे पहुंच गया। मैं इसको विशेष तौर पर बताऊंगा। दूसरा कहा गया कि सी०एन०एन० को देने से पहले हमें भारतीय मूल के निवासियों को जो कि टी०वी० आपरेटर्स हैं, यह ट्रांसपांडर देना चाहिए था। मैं इस बात से सहमत हूं कि उन पर भी गौर फरमाना चाहिए था और अगर दूरदर्शन के पास या भारत के पास ट्रांसपांडर है और अगर वे कंपीट कर सकते थे तो ऐसों को भी देना चाहिए। इसमें कोई दिक्कत नहीं है। देना चाहिए। पर सी०एन०एन० की रुकावट कहां आती है। फिर अगर सी०एन०एन० को लाए हैं तो आपने एग्रीमेंट में तो बहुत कुछ लिखा है किंतु मैं मंत्री महोदय से गुजारिश करूंगा कि हमारे देश की सारी चीजों को मद्देनजर रखकर उसके और कुछ नार्म्स भी फिक्स अप करें। जैसे कि एक बड़ी साधारण सी बात आई। देखने में साधारण सी लगती है पर बड़ी गंभीर है। हमारे सूचना और प्रसारण के मंत्री जिनका बैकग्राउंड आर्मी का है, डिफेंस सर्विस से आते हैं, मैं नहीं समझता कि किसी भी हालत में ये सी०एन०एन० के पर्दे पर या सी०एन०एन० के प्रसार पर यह देखकर खुश होंगे कि सियाचीन ग्लेशियर पाकिस्तान के हिस्से में दिखाया जा रहा है। क्या हमारे सूचना और प्रसारण का मंत्री जिसने बाना सिंह के साथ मिलकर काम किया है वह बाना सिंह की कुरबानी को भूल सकता है। मैं नहीं समझता कि वे कोई समझौता कर सकते हैं या भारत सरकार उसके साथ समझौता कर सकती है।

आप अमेरिका का सुपर कंम्पयूटर मीटियारालजिकल इन्फारमेशन के लिए यूज करिए। हमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। किंतु उसमें जो मीटियारालजिकल मैप्स दिखाए जाते हैं वे मीटियारालजिकल आफ इंडिया के होने चाहिए या मैप सर्वे आफ इंडिया द्वारा पास होने चाहिए। वे दिखाए जाने चाहिए। उनके साथ नार्म्स में ऐसी बातें रखिए।

अब सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था पर आता हूं कि आंतरिक सुरक्षा को खतरा पैदा हो रहा है। हमारे इस सदन के करीब-करीब सौ से ज्यादा सदस्यों को इस पार्लियामेंट से एक-एक कम्पयूटर दिया गया है थिंक पैड। आपको मालूम है कि टी०वी० के माध्यम से प्रसारण हो सकता है, जा नहीं सकता है। किंतु आपके थिंक पैड के उस कंप्यूटर के माध्यम से आप सारी दुनिया की किसी भी शक्ति से इन्फारमेशन ले सकते है और भेज सकते है। क्या यह आपको पता है। आपके थिंक पैड में माडम लगा हुआ है और उस माडम में खाली टेलीफोन का तार जोड़ने की जरूरत है। आप बहुत इम्पारटेंट मिनिस्ट्रीज

की कमेटियों में है। आपके पास गवर्नमेंट के बहुत सारे गुप्त दस्तावेज भेजे जाते हैं। वे दस्तावेज आप स्कैन करके अपने कंप्युटर में फीड कर सकते है और मिनटों में उसको अमेरिका में भेज सकते हैं। आपको किसी अमेरिकन से मिलने की जरूरत नहीं है। तो क्या इसका मतलब है हम उस थिंक पैड को कूड़ेदान में डाल दें क्योंकि कि हमारी आंतरिक सुरक्षा पर खतरा बन गया है? क्या आपको अपने पर भरोसा नहीं है कि आप अपने अंतरमन और अपने विवेक पर इतना संयम करके अपने देश की आंतरिक सुरक्षा को सुरक्षित नहीं रख सकते? अपने घर में आप फैक्स मशीन लगाते हैं। उसी माडम में उसकी के साथ, आपके थिंक पैड के साथ यह फैक्स लगी हुई है जिस फैक्स के माध्यम से आप दाउद इब्राहिम को नहीं जानते हों लेकिन अगर वह आपका नम्बर जानता है तो वह इन्फारमेशन आपके कंम्पयूटर में भेज सकता है। आपका कंम्पयूटर उसको रिसीव करता है। आप कंप्यूटर के उस हिस्से को तोड़कर टुकड़े-टुकड़े कर दीजिए, मत रखिए, डर जाइए कि अमेरिका, पाकिस्तान, चाइना, जापान कोई भी उसमें कुछ भी घुसेड़ दे सकता है। क्या आप रोक सकते हैं? क्या आप अपनी आंखों की रोशनी को रोक सकते हैं जो दूर तक दूसरे देशों की सभ्यता और संस्कृति को देखकर कुछ सीख सकती है? क्या आप रोक सकते है? क्या आप सूरज की रोशनी को रोकने की कोशिश कर सकते हैं कि नहीं इस सूरज की रोशनी से हमारे यहां अंधकार मिट जाता है, हम तो अंधकार के पुजारी है..

श्री रामगोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): लेकिन जब ग्रहण पड़ जाता है तब अंधकार हो जाता है।

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया: आप ठहरिए। मैं बताता हूं। उस टाइम भी चश्मा लगाकर देखा जाता है। उस टाइम भी थाली लगाकर देखा जाता है, उसी थाली को लगाकर देखा जाता है जिसमें डिस्क एण्टीना लगा हुआ है। इस चीज को समझने की कोशिश करिए। आप फैक्स मशीन बंद कर दीजिए। माडम बंद करा दीजिए- नहीं हम वैसे ही रहेंगे, बंद कमरे में जिस तरह से अंधेरे कमरे में किसी को बंद कर दिया जाए। और जब उसको टी०वी० की रोशनियों का उजाला जिस वक्त दिया जाए तो आंखें चौंधिया जाती हैं। अंधा होने का डर होता है। वही अंधेपन का डर हमारे मन में समा गया है। महोदय, हम डर रहे हैं, घबरा रहे हैं कि साहब, सी०एन०एन० आ जाएगा तो पता नहीं क्या होगा। क्यों, पिछले सैशन में हमने एक केबल टी०वी० बिल पास किया है। आप मुझे बताएं नॉर्थ एवेन्यू में जितने एम०पी० रहते है उसमें 80 फीसदी एम०पीज़ के घर केबल टी०वी० कनैक्शन लगे हुए हैं। गोल मार्केट से और वे केबल टी०वी० के माध्यम से क्या सी०एन०एन० नहीं देखते, स्टार टी०वी० नहीं देखते? क्या रोक सकते हैं? रोकने का तरीका है। यह निर्णय सदन कर सकता है और मैं गुजारिश करता हूं कि अगर ऐसा ही करना है तो उसे करने का तरीका क्या है? सरला माहेश्वरी जी ने कहा कि वायु तरंगे हैं जिस तरह से पानी में आक्सीजन है किन्तु आदमी के पास वह ब्रीदर नहीं है कि पानी से आक्सीजन सैपरेट करके सांस ले सके, किन्तु मछली के पास वह ब्रीदर है कि वह पानी से आक्सीजन को सैपरेट करके भी पानी में जिन्दा रहती है। हमें जिन्दा रहना है और इस समाज में जिन्दा रहना है, जबकि चारों तरफ वातावरण बदल रहे हैं, माहौल बदल रहे हैं, राजनैतिक परिवर्तन हो रहे हैं, शासकीय परिवर्तन हो रहे हैं, विचारधाराओं में परिवर्तन हो रहे हैं, आर्थिक परिवर्तन हो रहे हैं, उसमें जिन्दा रहना है। हमारे पास यह भी रास्ता है कि हम पूरे हिन्दुस्तान के ऊपर एक इलैक्ट्रॉनिक अम्ब्रैला लगा दें। इससे हमारी वायु तरंगे न बाहर जायेंगी, न बाहर वाली अंदर आयेंगी। इसके लिए कई हजार करोड़ रुपया खर्चा हो सकता है। किंतु हां, हम उसके साथ कूप-मंडूक भी बन सकते हैं। तो क्या वह हम बनने के लिए तैयार हैं, अगर हम बाहरी समाज व्यवस्था से, बाहर की डिप्लोमेसी से, बाहर के राजनैतिक रिश्तों को तोड़ना चाहते हैं, हम तोड़ सकते हैं। पर अगर हम इन्फर्मेशन, मलकानी जी की बात को मानते हैं कि इन्फर्मेशन इज़ पावर, हम अपने लोगों को इन्फर्मेशन कहां से देंगे? जिसके पास तो पैसा है, जो शहर में रहता है वह तो केबल टी०वी० वालों से कनैक्शन ले लेता है, क्योंकि एक हजार रुपया इन्सटालेशन फी है और सौ रुपये महीने का उसका रैंट है। पर एक गरीब आदमी जो सिर्फ दूरदर्शन ही देखता है, वह डिश एंटीना नहीं खरीद सकता। बहुत सारे एम०पी० लोगों के घर पर डिश एंटीना भी लगे हुए है और यह कारण है मैंने भी डिश एंटीना लिया जब गल्फ वार चल रही थी। रोज़ इस सदन में भी वार होती थी और सारी इन्फार्मेशन कोलैक्ट करनी पड़ती थी इसलिए डिश एंटीना खरीदने की जरूरत पड़ी। आज हमारे गांव का इंसान, हमारे देहात का आदमी जहां केबल आपरेटर नहीं है, वह अगर सी०एन०एन० के माध्यम से कुछ विदेश के बारे में जानना चाहता है या विश्व के बारे में जानना चाहता है और दूरदर्शन उसका प्रसारण कर रहा है तो उसमें अन्याय क्या है। कौन-सी

सभ्यता पर आक्रमण है, कौन-सी संस्कृति को वह रोक रहा है?

मेरे एक दोस्त ताईवान में रहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि हिन्दुस्तान की खबर तो हमें दिखाई नहीं पड़ती। मैंने कहा कब-कब हिन्दुस्तान को तुमने अपने टी०वी० पर देखा। उसने कहा कि एक बार देखा जब बाबरी मस्जिद टूटी। तब दिखाया। ....(**व्यवधान**)

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: हां, इसके बगैर खाना हज़म नहीं होगा। बाबरी मस्जिद ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: दूसरी बार देखा जब बम्बई में बम ब्लास्ट हुआ और तीसरी बार देखा था जब लातूर में अर्थ-क्वेक हुआ था। तीन बार देखा और हमें तो हिन्दुस्तान के बारे में डर लगता है। ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान (*नाम निर्देशित*): आपेरशन ब्लू स्टार नहीं देखा उन्होंने?

4 P.M.

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: ये तीन चीजें उन्होंने देखीं तो उनका और उनके परिवार को यह डर था कि हिंदुस्तान मतलब क्या? जो सरला महेश्वरी जो ने चित्र दिखाया, वह तो कुछ अच्छा है कि एक साधु का रूप दिखाया, जटाधारी दिखाया और तिलक लगाए हुए दिखाया। पहले तो हिन्दुस्तान माने सपेरा यानी India was projected as a country snake charmers.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस से ऊपर उभरने की जरूरत है। आप दिखाइए कि यहां की सभ्यता और संस्कृति कितनी ऊंची है और उस के लिए एक मौका है कि 5 मिनिट का जो ट्रांसमीशन आप को मिल रहा है, उस को बढ़ाने की कोशिश करें और कम-से-कम एक वीकली प्रोग्राम दिखाएं, जिस में दिखाएं कि हरेक राज्य के क्या-क्या कस्टम्स हैं, वहां की सभ्यता क्या है और उन का इतिहास क्या है? फर्स्ट रिपब्लिक ऑफ वर्ल्ड कहां शुरू हुआ, यूनिवर्सिटीज कहां शुरु हुई, शिक्षा कहां शुरू हुई?

श्री जलालुदीन अंसारी (बिहार): काश्मीर छोड़कर दिखाते हैं, उस बारे में क्या कहना है?

†[شری جلال الدین انصاری: کشمیر چھوڑ کر دکھاتے ہیں - اس بارے میں کیا کہنا ہے]

श्री एस० एस० अहलुवालिया: आप कहां थे? मैं पहले बोल चुका हूं। इतना आंतरिक सुरक्षा का जो डर मन में बैठा हुआ है, आप उस को कम करें। आप अपने को "कूप मंडूक" मत बनाइए और भारत की प्रगति के साथ कदम-से कदम मिलाकर भारत को प्रगति के पथ पर ले जाइए।

मैंने आप को अभी कंप्यूटर की प्रगति के बारे में बताया। आप के कंप्यूटर में एक कनेक्शन है "इंटरनेक" का जिससे कि आप वर्ल्ड की जो बड़ी-बड़ी यूनिवर्सिटीज की लायब्रेरीज से, जहां पर कि इलेक्ट्रानिक लायब्रेरीज है, उस में एंटर कर सकते हैं। इसके साथ ही एक और कनेक्शन मिलता है "वर्ल्डर वाइड वैब" का जिस के माध्यम से इतनी इनफॉर्मेशन मिल सकती है कि आप अपने "थिंक पैड" के माध्यम से "बिल क्लिंटन" की आइटिनरी के बारे में जान सकते हैं। एक बटन दबाने की जरूरत है और बिल क्लिंटन ने उस समय प्रेस के बारे में क्या कहा, उस के पूरे प्रेस क्लिपिंग्स सामने आ सकते हैं। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह इनफॉर्मेशन पावर है और यह इनफॉर्मेशन इकट्ठी करने की जरूरत है। नहीं तो हम भी भटक जाएं, जैसे कि कोलंबस भटक गया था क्योंकि कोलंबस के पास इनफार्मेशन की कमी थी। वह इटली से चला और अमेरिका चला गया और आज भी वहां के लोग अमेरिकी मूल निवासी नहीं कहलाते, "रेड इंडियन" कहलाते हैं। तो इस भूल में रहा। तो मेरा कहना है कि यह जो हमलावर है या यह जो व्यवसाय है, यह अपनी वायु-तरंगों के माध्यम से ही होना है और आप को यह मानना पड़ेगा कि हम दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से अपने 90 करोड़ लोगों को किस तरह से एजुकेट कर सकते हैं, कैसे इनफॉर्मेशन दे सकते हैं। वह रास्ता आप के सामने है। मैं बधाई देता हूं सरकार को कि उन्होंने यह निर्णय लिया। इसके साथ-साथ ही मैं मंत्री महोदय से गुजारिश करूंगा कि हमारे दूरदर्शन में शराब का प्रचार नहीं होता, सिगरेट का प्रचार नहीं होता। इसलिए आप सी०एन०एन० से एग्रीमेंट करें कि हमारे "कॉरसपोंडा" के थ्रू जो प्रसार होगा उस में शराब और सिगरेट का प्रचार नहीं होगा।

†[] Transliteration in Arabic Script.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: यह तो हो गया।

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया: इस के नॉर्म्स डिसाइड करने होंगे।

They will decide the norms from time to time. और जहां तक अपनी सभ्यता और संस्कृति को बचाने का काम है, तो इस को भ्रष्ट करने का काम दूरदर्शन का काम नहीं है। उस को भ्रष्ट हम सब लोग मिलकर कर रहे हैं। हम सब लोग एक होकर काम करें तो मैं समझता हूं कि भारतीय संस्कृति, भारतीय सभ्यता और भारत की सुरक्षा को कोई खतरा नहीं पहुंचा सकता। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी० नारायणसामी): श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र।

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह कहा गया था कि 3 बजे यह खत्म हो जाएगा। तो अब कितने बजे तक चलेगा? ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं आप से सहमत हूं। इसी तरह से शार्ट ड्यूरेशन डिस्कसन के लिए जो सब्जैक्ट आने वाला है, वह दो दिन चलना चाहिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): When the hon. Members are not sticking to the time allotted to them, what can I do?

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं आपसे, आपसे से मेरा मतलब चेयर से, जानना चाहता हूं कि हम लोग मंत्री जी ने जो यह जवाब दिया है एक पत्रे का, उसी पर बहस कर रहे हैं या हम लोगों के पास, जो सी०एन०एन० से दूरदर्शन का करार हुआ है उस करार के कोई कागजात इस सदन में हों, उस पर बहस कर रहे हैं?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I don't want to say anything about the rules. You know the rules better than anybody. This is Calling Attention.

Members have to put their questions to the Minister and the Minister will reply.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: कालिंग अटेंशन को हिन्दी में अविलंबनीय लोक महत्व का प्रश्न कहते हैं। सरकार का कोई विभाग अगर किसी दूसरे देश की सरकार के किसी विभाग से सुलह कर ले तो यह अविलंबनीय लोक महत्व में आएगा या यह एक राष्ट्रीय मसला होगा? तो यह पूरे करार पर बहस होनी चाहिए, नंबर एक। मैं यह मांग करूंगा। मेरे पास यह दस्तावेज है, मंत्री जी ने सदन में नहीं रखा, लेकिन इनके एक अधिकारी ने यह दिया है, जो एग्रीमेंट की कापी है। अगर इस एग्रीमेंट की कापी को हम देखेंगे तो इनका जवाब लगता है कि कई जगह पर हम लोगों को गुमराह कर रहे हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Then you go and consult the Minister. If it does not tally, you can put the question to the Minister. He will answer.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: उनके पास होगा। वह जानते हैं, लेकिन इनके अधिकारियों ने यह जवाब तैयार करके दिया है। कई विपक्ष के सदस्यों ने जो यह मुद्दा उठाया है कि इससे हमारे राष्ट्रीय हित भी खतरे में आ रहे हैं। इस राष्ट्रीय हित का मतलब इनका यह था कि राष्ट्र के बाहर, हमारी सरहद से जिन लोगों का रिश्ता है या दूसरे देशों के बारे में हमारा जो रुख है, हमारी नजर है, अमरीका का रुख या अमरीका की नजर उन मुद्दों पर, कई जगह हिन्दुस्तान की विदेश नीति से, हिन्दुस्तान की सरहद से टकराती है और उस टकराई हुई नजर को अगर कोई अमीरकी कंपनी आकर के यहां प्रचार का स्रोत बनाती है तो वह खतरा पैदा करेगा। कई लोगों ने इस बात को उठाया है। इससे इंकार किया जा सकता है, लेकिन अगर प्रचार अपने ही देश से यह चलने लगेगा तो मुश्किल हो जाएगी। पहली बात तो इनको यह एग्रीमेंट यहां सदन में रखना चाहिए था ताकि सदन उस पर बहस करता, उसकी खामियों को निकालता। यह दो पेज का इन्होंने टेड़ा-मेड़ा सा अपना जवाब दिया और उसमें लिख दिया कि राष्ट्रीय हितों को कोई खतरा नहीं है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं चाहूंगा कि इस एग्रीमेंट को इस सदन में पढ़ा जाए तो स्थिति सामने आएगी। मैं इसका एक कालम पढ़ना चाहूंगा, पूरा पढ़ने में बहुत समय लग जाएगा और मुझे और भी बातें करनी है। इसमें न्यूज एक्सचेंजेज का लिखा हुआ है कि दूरदर्शन—ओटीआई, इनमें जो वर्ल्डवाइड न्यूज किसी भी मीडियम से है, दूरदर्शन से जो लेगा, टी०आई० सेल है—

> "The right without any limitation to edit all such things and information and stories and footage provided that such editing does not distort the footage."

यह तो उन्होंने "ए" में लिखा है और "बी" में लिखा है कि इसी तरह से दूरदर्शन जो कुछ भी लेगा सी०एन०एन० से और उसमें साफ साफ लिखा हुआ है कि दूरदर्शन जो कुछ भी लेगा सी०एन०एन० से,—

> "The DD programme and the DD cell have the right without any limitation to edit any or all such news and information and stories and footage provided that such editing does not distort the footage.

हमसे वह जो लेंगे, उसकी बुनियाद को बदलने का उनको हक नहीं होगा यानि सारी दुनिया में जो खबर फैलाना चाहेंगे, वह जाएगी। हम भी उनसे जो लेंगे, हमको भी अधिकार नहीं है कि हम उसकी पृष्ठभूमि को और उसके अधिकार को बदल सकें। अपने देश में किसी विदेशी कंपनी के द्वारा हम गुलाम बनें खबर देने के मामले में, यह एक खतरनाक प्रवृत्ति है। आधार बदलने की शक्ति अगर भारत सरकार और इसके दूरदर्शन में नहीं रहेगी तो वह स्वतंत्र दूरदर्शन नहीं रहेगा।

महोदय, खबर देने से आदमी का दिमाग बनता है और खबर लेने से आदमी का दिमाग बनता है। अहलुवालिया साहब को मैं बहुत ध्यान से सुन रहा था। खबरें केवल अहलुवालिया जी को नहीं मिलती, रामगोपाल जी को नहीं मिलती, सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय जी को नहीं मिलती, या सिकंदर बख्त साहब को नहीं मिलती, जो कुछ भी खबर जाती है उसके व्यूवर के पास जाती है। इनमें छोटे-छोटे बच्चे भी होते हैं, केवल सभी मैम्बर आफ पार्लियामेंट नहीं होते, सभी बुद्धिजीवी नहीं होते, वह भी होते हैं जिनकी बुद्धि परिपक्व नहीं है। खबरें जब जाती है लोगों के दिमाग में तो एक के बाद एक बैठती जाती है और जाकर के, परत-दर-परत बैठते-बैठते एक मानसिकता बनती है। खबर इंसान की मानसिकता बनाती है। अभी वह कह रहे थे जीन्स-पैंट के बारे में। हिन्दुस्तान जब आजाद हुआ था तो उस समय हिन्दुस्तान के संविधान में लिख दिया गया था कि हिन्दुस्तान की राजभाषा हिन्दी होगी, लेकिन अभी वह राज-काज चलाने लायक भाषा नहीं है इसलिए फलां समय तक अंग्रेजी कायम रहेगी, अंग्रेजी ने हमारी मानसिकता बदली है। बहुत से लोग कहते हैं कि हम खिड़की खोले हैं ज्ञान की दुनिया की लियाकत हासिल करने के लिए अंग्रेजी का चलना हिन्दुस्तान में निहायत जरूरी है, इसलिए हिन्दुस्तान हिन्दुस्तानी नहीं हिन्दुस्तान इंग्लिश देश बन गया है। भाषा कभी-कभी इंसान के मन को मारती है, उसी तरह से जो सूचनाएं मिला करती हैं वे इंसान के मन को, उसके मनोबल को तोड़ा करती है, उसके साथ खिलवाड़ किया करती है, उसके चरित्र को बिगाड़ा करती हैं। किस्से-कहानियां रोज़ जोड़-जोड़कर कोई कौम बनती हैं, कोई कौम एक दिन में बना नहीं करती और न संविधान की किताब, न पार्लियामेंट और न ही जजिस से बना करती है, कौम बना करती है किस्से-कहानियों से, बड़ी-बड़ी घटनाओं से और सबको जोड़ते-जोड़ते इंसान का दिमाग जब एक बड़े पैमाने पर तैयार हो जाता है, उस समूह को कौम कहते हैं। मुझे बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इस सरकार ने संसद में इस दस्तावेज को रखे बिना इसे पास कर दिया और हम लोगों को कालिंग अटेंशन के जरिए इस पर बहस करनी पड़ रही है। हम मांग करेंगे कि सम्पूर्ण दस्तावेज को एक बार सदन में रखा जाए, इसके एक पन्ने से गुमराह करने की कोशिश न की जाए और तब एक लम्बी बहस इस पर की जाए कि क्या हिन्दुस्तान का दूरदर्शन इतना निकम्मा है कि हम अपनी बातों का प्रचार करने के लिए विदेशी मीडिया का सहारा लेंगे, तभी चलेगा? सन् 47, सन् 51 में विदेशी भाषा का सहारा लिया गया था, एक समय बांधा गया था, आपने तो दो साल के लिए बांधा है सी०एन०एन० को, उस समय 12 साल के लिए बांधा गया था लेकिन वह भाषा जा नहीं सकी। ये बड़े जालिम किस्म के लोग है, इनके पास दौलत है, इनको अपना बाजार बनाना है, अपने बाजार के लिए हमारे दिमाग को उस लायक उपभोक्ता बनाना पड़ेगा, उपभोक्ता प्रवृत्ति का बनाना पड़ेगा। हमको यह त्यागी नहीं बना सकते, तपस्वी नहीं बना सकते। अमेरिका के लोग सीता को जगत-जननी मानने को तैयार नहीं होंगे। गांधी के बारे में ऊट-पटांग बोल सकते हैं क्योंकि गांधी अगर हिन्दुस्तान में जिंदा रह जाएंगे तो अमेरिका की पकड़ हिन्दुस्तान में ढीली हो जाएगी। किसी भी विदेशी चैनल से अगर गांधी पर अपशब्द आता है तो इस सदन में एतराज़ किया जाता है। इस सदन के सदस्य कितने दिनों तक रहेंगे? 50 साल के बाद इस सदन में जो लोग आएंगे, वे लोग इस तरह के किस्से-कहानियां सुनते रहेंगे, कैसी मानसिकता बनाकर आएंगे? इसलिए खतरा है इस मुल्क के चरित्र का, एक तरफ तो सरहद का खतरा है, दूसरी तरफ मुल्क के चरित्र का खतरा है और तीसरी तरफ इस संसदीय जनतंत्र की बनावट का खतरा है, उसकी रूप-रेखा का खतरा

है। अगर किसी सरकारी विभाग का कोई अधिकारी स्वेच्छा से किसी दूसरे देश की कम्पनी से सुलहनामा कर लेता है और वह सुलहनामा इस संसद में नहीं आता तो इस संसद की गरिमा घटती है। हम लोग बेचैन होकर के, कोई मैम्बर बेचैन होकर के स्पेशल मेंशन में या जीरो ओवर में इस बात को उठाए, उसके मायने नहीं होते, कालिंग अटेंशन में इसको उठाए तो उसके मायने नहीं होते, सदन की अपनी एक मर्यादा होती है, गरिमा होती है और मुझे बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ रहा है कि इस समय जो शासन चला रहे हैं, वे सदन की मर्यादा के साथ खिलवाड़ कर रहे हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि देश का भी अपना एक चरित्र होता है, उस चरित्र का ह्रास करने के लिए ये उपभोक्ता संस्कृति की चीजें आ रही हैं। जब तक मनमोहन सिंह जी की आर्थिक नीतियां और औद्योगिक नीतियां आती थीं, हम लोग हल्ला मचाते थे लेकिन हम जानते थे कि औद्योगिक नीति, आर्थिक नीति हिन्दुस्तान के लोगों के पेट से रिश्ता रखेगी, लेकिन जो यह टेलीविजन वाली नीति इनकी आ गई, विदेशी संस्कृति से समझौता करने वाली, यह तो हमारी खोपड़ी से रिश्ता रखती है। पेट खराब हो जाएगा तो उसका इलाज हो सकता है लेकिन अगर किसी कौम की खोपड़ी खराब हो जाएगी तो उसका इलाज नहीं हो सकता क्योंकि उससे चरित्र बना करता है, किरदार बना करता है और मुझे बहुत अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इस समय जो लोग सत्ता में बैठे हैं, मैं उन लोगों पर आरोप नहीं लगाता कि इस मुल्क का वे चरित्र बिगाड़ना चाहते हैं, लेकिन जाने-अन्जाने, अपनी भूल से, उनकी करनी से मुल्क का चरित्र बिगड़ रहा है। वे लोग अगर आ गए और हावी हो गए तो हम लोग कहीं के नहीं रहेंगे। हम लोगों के मायने—हम लोगों की पीढ़ी तो नहीं, लेकिन हम लोगों के बाद आने वाली पीढ़ी बड़ी कमजोर और लिजलिज किस्म की पीढ़ी होगी। उसमें उठाने की हिम्मत नहीं रह जाएगी। इसलिए उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपसे निवेदन करूंगा कि इस पूरे के पूरे दस्तावेज पर इस सदन में बहस कराने के लिए मेरी तरफ से चेयरमैन साहब से, और पार्टी के लोगों से भी कहेंगे कि बहस कराने के लिए इस पर सब को तैयार कराकर इसके लिए एक समय-सीमा तय कराएं। जवाब मंत्री जी देना चाहें दें, प्रधान मंत्री जी देना चाहें दे, क्योंकि मुल्क के चरित्र का सवाल है, उसके बाद सुरक्षा का सवाल है, दृष्टियों का सवाल है। कश्मीर से लेकर के पाकिस्तान और पाकिस्तान को, पता नहीं पाकिस्तान को कितने किस्म के हथियार देने के बारे में अमेरिका में बहस है। अमेरिका की कम्पनी आएगी तो वह हिन्दुस्तान के पक्ष में नहीं सोचेगी। कहीं न कहीं कोई ताल तिकड़म भिड़ा ही देगी। हमारी सरहद को खतरे होने लगेंगे और उस समय आप में दम नहीं रहेगा, आपके दूरदर्शन में दम नहीं रहेगा कि उसको आप रोक सकें, उस पर पाबंदी लगा सकें। **(समय की घंटी)** घंटी बजाकर आप हमको रोकना चाहते हैं। लेकिन मैं इसके "सी" पार्ट को भी सुनाऊंगा। उसमें लिखा है:

> "On a fee basis, in instances where the CNN has readily available personnel and capacity, the CNN will endeavour upon the DD's reasonable request."

एक शब्द है—रीजनेबिल रिक्वेस्ट। दूरदर्शन के रीजनेबिल रिक्वेस्ट पर सी०एन०एन० हमको अपना कुछ न्यूज प्रसारित करने के लिए देगा फीस के आधार पर। लगता है कि हम अपने देश में किसी विदेशी कम्पनी के सामने दरख्वास्त करने जा रहे हैं, भीख मांगने जा रहे हैं। हम कितने टुकड़खोर किस्म की हालत में अपने देश को बेच रहे हैं, यह हम समझ नहीं पा रहे हैं। और रीजनेबिल कौन तय करेगा? या तो दूरदर्शन के अधिकारी और सी०एन०एन० में सौदेबाजी होने लगेगी, भ्रष्टाचार के चांसेज बढ़ेंगे। मैं इस समय दूरदर्शन पर या रेडियो विभाग पर या प्रचार माध्यम पर बहस नहीं करना चाहता, क्योंकि मैं जानता हूं कि वहां पर क्या हुआ करता है। लेकिन किसी विदेशी कम्पनी—अमेरिकी कम्पनी के साथ रिजनेबिल क्या है, अंतिम तौर पर यह कौन तय करेगा? जो कम्पनी का मालिक होगा—वह, या आप तय करेंगे जो मांगने के लिए उनके यहां जाएंगे? तो मैंने जानबूझकर यह दो-तीन पोर्शन पढ़े हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री जी, सिर्फ इस पत्रे से काम नहीं चलेगा, पूरी की पूरी यह कॉपी सदन की टैबिल पर रखें ताकि सदस्य लोग इसको पढ़ें। हमको आपके अधिकारी ने यह भेजा कि मंत्री जी ने तो बहुत छोटे में जवाब दिया है, उस जवाब से काम चलने वाला नहीं है। लेकिन मैं जानता था कि खतरा किधर है। खतरा सरहद पर हैं, खतरा मुल्क के चरित्र पर है, खतरा मुल्क के इतिहास, उसके गौरव जिसके गीत गाकर के हम लोगों ने मुल्क की आजादी की लड़ाई में कामयाबी हासिल की, उन तमाम मूल्यों पर एक जबर्दस्त किस्म का खतरा आने वाला है। यदि उसके बारे में इस सदन में बहस नहीं हुई, सदन को विश्वास में नहीं लिया तो ऐसा भी तो हो रहा है आजकल देश में कि एक सरकार समझौता करके जाती है, दूसरी सरकार

आती है और उसको खारिज कर देती है। तो मैं नहीं चाहता कि ऐसी परिस्थितियां आएं। यह सरकार खुली बहस कराकर के और विपक्ष की जो सलाह आती है, उन सलाहों को मान करके इस तरह के करार को मंजूर न करे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं।

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Opposition Members will always get copies of the agreement or some other papers from the Government. But we, the ruling party Members, never get anything ....(*interruptions*)...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That is how your Government is working. It is a reflection on your Government.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: So, whenever any document is placed before the House or whenever an excerpt from a document is quoted here, it should be authenticated. We must be supplied with such copies. Mr. Janeshwar Misra has quoted from a copy of the agreement. All the Members should get a copy of that agreement so that we can know what is right and what is wrong.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Desai, some Members are getting the documents and it is up to them. I cannot come to your rescue at this stage. Now, Shri Surinder Kumar Singla—not present. Mr. Minister.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Kindly give me half-a-minute. Before you speak, Mr. Minister, I want one assurance and, that is, that today, like that day, we will not be blacked out and that the Radio and TV will tell the world what we have said here. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Mr. Jagesh Desai, allow the Minister to reply. You have already sought your clarifications. Let him clarify them.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I must respond firstly to my respected, very valued, esteemed and distinguished predecessor, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, for whom I have the highest of regard and respect. As far as blacking-out is concerned, the Doordarshan cannot black out anything which doesn't go from here. The Doordarshan correspondent does not write the proceedings of both the Houses. So, within the limited time available, we will try our utmost to see to it that justice is done to all the Members. But it is beyond my control, Sir. I would like to say that the script writers write the proceedings of both the Houses, the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: But News is different from reporting of the Parliament. I am asking for an equal coverage for our side in the News.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, I shall convey the feelings of the Members. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, I have a charge to make against the Doordarshan. On the contrary, what the Congress Members say is not fully and properly put out. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I shall convey the feelings of the Members and I am sure that the Doordarshan would like to live up to its....(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): It will do justice to Members on both the sides.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: And that the Doordarshan will be concerned about its image, its reputation and its credibility by giving equitable and universal coverage.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: No. I am saying this because I have already made a serious allegation. In the light of that, I am saying this.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Most humbly I agree with you. The Doordarshan must give it and I shall convey your

feelings. I am neither the D.G., Doordarshan nor the D.G.(News), Doordarshan. Therefore, I am sure you would not like the Minister to interfere with the News and the coverage. (*Interruptions*) I shall convey your feelings.

Sir, first and foremost, I would like to convey my feelings and gratitude and also my grateful thanks to the Members for their pains-taking manner, for the excellent homework and documentation that they have done and the interest that they have taken in this matter of agreement between the Doordarshan and Turner International Inc. I am equally grateful for the views expressed and, I am sure, my officers, who are present here, are also taking notes of the apprehensions in the minds of the hon. Members and the hon. House on some of the questions which may arise. I am very particular in emphasising the word 'may arise' because it is the hon. Members' prerogative and privilege to have their own perceptions and their own viewpoints. And, as Mr. Malkani said that he was speaking on behalf of himself and on behalf of his party, so, I think, all the hon. Members, who spoke, were speaking on behalf of their parties and also on their own behalf.

Going through this entire debate on the Calling Attention Motion, I agree with Shri Janeshwar Misraji that it is not a full debate. I welcome a full debate anytime. We have never shied away from any debate.

श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र: तो यह ऐग्रीमेंट तो टेबल पर रख दीजिए।

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I am coming to that. So, we will not shy away from any debate on any subject under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. On the agreement also, I would like to mention, Sir, that probably the Doordarshan and the Information and Broadcasting Ministry are the only ones whose commercial confidentiality is laid bare here in this House. None of my competitors are under any obligation to give even an iota of information. For the last one month I have been trying, even through our Ministry of External Affairs, even through our Embassies and even through our various channels of information to get copies or the salient features of the agreement signed by Turner International with the Government of China and with the Government of the then Soviet Union, now Russia. I have miserably failed, Sir. Nobody wants to give any document, Sir. I have not yet got a single thing even from a capitalist or a free market country like Japan, leave alone a controlled Communist country like China or the Soviet Union or a Marxist country or a socialist country. So, Sir, I don't want to be the first person to set a precedent. Hon. Members are able to get certain photocopies which are not authenticated. We have also seen in this House how some Members quoted instances about Michele tanks, kuo oil deals and every thing from the so-called documents which are not authenticated. But, I don't want to break the tradition. Many of the hon. Members, including Janeshwar Misraji and Gujralji were hon. Ministers of the Government and they know about official secrecy. Sir, one of the hon. Members, in fact, it was respected Gujralji, said that what happens in the Chamber of the Chairman or the Deputy Chairman or the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is not supposed to be quoted here. It is with this faith and with this trust I had handed over copies of the Memorandum of Understanding or the Agreement to the Members of my Consultative Committee. There I find, Mr. Janeshwar Misra is not a Member of my Consultative Ministry, but he has also got a copy. This may be borne in mind, Sir.

Sir, I would say that this debate takes me back to the days when I was in school. There I had the privilege of reading Shakespear's Julius Caesar. I

would just like to take a few minutes of the House and crave its indulgence to quote Mark Anthony's funeral speech on Julius Caesar. It has a parallel. One has to substitute the words. I won't go through the entire funeral speech, but some aspects.

Sir, Mark Anthony starts of it immediately after Brutus had given a very impassioned speech justifying the assassination of Julius Caesar. "Friends, Roman's countrymen, lend me your ears. I come to bury Caesar, not to praise him." In this case, Sir, substitute 'Caesar' by "the Agreement." "The evil that men do lives after them. The good is oft interred with their bones. So, let it be with Caesar. The noble Brutus has told you that Caesar was ambitious. If it was so, it was a grievous fault and grievously had Caesar answered it. Hereunder leave of Brutus and the rest. For Brutus is an honourable man. So are they all honourable men. So, might you speak on Caesar's funeral." Then I skip over, Sir. This was about Caesar's ambition. In this case, Caesar will be substituted by Doordarshan because I want to bring out Doordarshan's ambitions. But, Brutus says he was ambitious. Brutus is an honourable man. He had brought many captives home to Rome. ...*(Interruptions)*...

"Whose ransom the general coffers fill. When the poor had cried Caesar had wept. Yet, Brutus says, he was ambitious and Brutus was an honourable man." Then I will skip over, Sir. "But here I am to speak but I do not know. You all did love me once not without cause." Even in this case, the Doordarshan. "What cause withholds you then to mourn for him. O Judgment! Though art fled to brutish beasts, and men have lost their reasons. Bear with me. My heart in the coffin there with Caesar and I must pause till it comes back to me."

Now I will go point by point and say what I have to say.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that he put himself in the position of Mark Antony.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I did not say. I did not say.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mark Antony made an impassioned eloquent speech with dishonourable intentions. Brutus was truly an honourable man according to Shakespeare. I am really happy that he put himself in the shoes of Mark Antony.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about Cleopatra?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I beg your pardon. I am not putting myself into anybody's shoes: I do not believe putting myself into anybody's shoes excepting my own shoes! That privilege I will leave to you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Let us go back to the discussion. Kindly do not interrupt.

SHIR K.P. SINGH DEO: I think, I have even seen that picture with Richard Burton and Taylor. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: The hon. Minister has our indulgence and he can go on. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, while giving my explanation I will be referring to the points also simultaneously because many points have been common points. These are about the national security being jeopardised, about our making radical changes from the National Media Policy, subjugating ourselves to foreign multi-nationals, deviating from the Second Press Commission, foreign influence on us, policy change, black Friday, cultural invasion, Kashmir not being shown as part of India in some weather map, anti-India fervour, sell-out, absence of policy, etc. etc. Then I had said somewhere that I had consulted the Opposition and I would like to clarify on

that.

There has been some mention about Mr. Rupert Murdoch, India-based companies broadcasting various programmes and spending a lot of money outside, Media Policy, the point that India cannot be a silent spectator, and what is going on in the world, policy for print media, advertisements, Prasar Bharati, partisan propaganda, geopolitics of information, multi-nationals, new agents to new colonialism, etc. etc. These were the points.

Sir, before I answer all the points, I would like to mention that neither there has been a sell out nor a lease nor have we sold out any time to the Turner International or its subsidiary, the CNN. The Cable New Network has been operating in this country since 1989. I personally saw the Gulf War in one of the five star hotels on the CNN. In those days I was not in the Parliament because our Government had been voted out. I was also not an MP in those days. But, I came to a five star hotel and I had a glimpse of the Gulf War through the CNN. Since those days the CNN is being received in India. I do not know who gave the permission in 1990. Some of the five star hotels have been showing the CNN. I do not know whether the hotels of the ITDC had this facility or not. What has been done by the Doordarshan? It has managed to get a reputed international broadcasting company of a network, which abides by the laws of India, subjects itself to the programme and advertisement code of India approved by the Government in 1978 when my distinguished predecessor Shri Advani, was the I & B Minister. Since then it has been laid in the Parliament and in the wisdom of both the Houses of Parliament, we have not amended even a full-stop, coma or semi-colon. Therefore, I must congratulate the Dordarshan for subjecting a unbridled, unfittered channel which was beaming in India into the Ambit of Indian Laws. They have done so by negotiations—not overnight, not on a black Friday—in four years. In 1993, the first letter came to the Doordarshan. Before that they had gone to the Department of Space. They did not get anything straight from the Department of Space—I do not know whether it was because they did not have transponders or because according to the business rules it is the Information and Broadcasting Ministry—and they wrote to the Doordarshan and Doordarshan took two years to decide whether they ought or ought not to have an agreement with the CNN. The agreement was singed on the 30th June, 1995 between the Turner International, a non-governmental private news agency based in Atlanta and the Doordarshan is the equal partner in a strategic alliance to keep pace with the fast—changing global media scene. It is Dordarshan's pragmatic response to a situation in which it is finding itself in competition with proliferating satellite and cable broadcast. The agreement is valid for two years and it is to be reviewed after one year, that is, on the 30th June, 1996. The salient features of the agreement are that the Doordarshan will provide uninterrupted access...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Just a minute, Minister. Will you agree to share the copies of this agreement with the Members of Parliament or we should ask for a copy of the agreement to be placed on the Table of the House?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I beg you pardon, I am not quoting from that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, since according to me it has been the most professional and most ethical and most profitable, there is nothing secret in it. In this it is all transparency. Why the hon. Minister cannot share with us the copy of the agreement?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I will come to it later.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Minister, I would just like to make a request, this discussion has taken a lot of time and you have to coplete your reply within 15 minutes because the Vohra Committee Report has to be discussed.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: A lot of charges have been made against me, Doordarshan and my Ministry. I should get equal opportunity to refute it. There should not be any intereference.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): When are we going to discuss the Vohra Committe Report? How long will it continue because we cannot finish all the speakers within the time left?

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Sorry for the interruption. In the Doordarshan also we find "Sorry for the interruptions".

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Therefore, it should be extended up to 16th. That is the only way. It should be extended up to 16th because our time is cut and that is an important document than this discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Mehta, please sit down. I would like to mention that as soon as the Minister's reply is over then only we can see how it is progressing and then we will decide.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: As I was saying the salient features of the agreement are that the term of two years would be reviewed after one year. Doordarshan will provide uninterrupted access, 24 hours a day. Insat 2-B, C-b transponders along with up-link and down- link facilities to the CNNI to be operated by the Doordarshan. Neither up-link is being given nor down-link is being given to the CNN by Doordarshan from Arab-Star, or AP Star the Chinese satellite and it will be up-linked by Doordarshan to Insat 2-B. So, the entire operation is of the Doordarshan. I hope that it satisfies Smt. Sarala Maheshwari. There is no change in my stand or the Government's stand or the Doordarshan's stand on the CAB Hero Cup's stand and with the sovereignty of this country. As long as the present law remains Doordarshan will up-link and down-link it. Today also it is the same. We have not surrendered our sovereignty. At the same time, the Supreme Court has upheld our stand. At the same time it has said that airwaves should have an independent body to regulate it. We are coming with a comprehensive broadcasting law in which some of the points given by Shri Gujral and shri Upendra will be included. Shri Upendra very kindly had sent me a document and some of the provisions mentioned in the document are being incorporated by us in the broadcasting law which we are going to bring very soon. It has to go to the Cabinet first before I can bring it. The Turner International will assist Doordarshan for the enhancement of Satellite signal transmission and reception, equipment, procurement, automatic play-back machinery and operation. Doordarshan and CNNI channel will carry a minimum of two and a maximum of eight half-an-hours of regional news, current affairs programme per day provided by Doordarshan. Doordarshan will provide Turner International, a minimum of one hour transmission time daily. Terrestrially either by DD I or DD II or by DD III Turner International will provide entertainment and current affairs programme. This shall be subject to Doordarshan's editorial control. Doordarshan's decision will be final and binding on the acceptability of such programmes. In case we do not wish to take even for a single second we shall not take it. It is the prerogative of ours, whether we use this or not.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Does your editorial authority have the news programme also? Kindly elaborate it.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Giving

terrestrial authority is entirely our decision, it is entirely our discretion.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Does it cover news also? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: CNN International will pay Doordarshan ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: While introducing the Calling Attention, I had made it clear, I had quoted from the press reports saying that there is no editorial control. If the hon. Minister is refuting that, let him state it categorically, "yes, Doordarshan or this Government retains editorial control." Let him say it categorically about news.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Kindly take your seat. I am very categorical. As far as terrestrial is concerned, we have an editorial control. As far as the satellite is concerned, neither do we have full editorial control not do they have on us. And it was read out by Shri Janeshwar Misra in English.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, we are not used to the technical language. I am a commoner. Let him say categorically.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Madam, how is it, if I am interrupted again and again? I did not interrupt the hon. Member when he said all sorts of things. Without any substance, without even going into the whole thing, be made certain wild allegations against Doordarshan and the Government of India.

Madam CNN channel was available in India for the last five years. Without signing with Doordarshan, it was available to anyone and everyone who paid Rs. 10 to a post office and got a satellite dish or paid to a cable operator. Doordarshan has managed to get them to follow the Indian laws, and follow the programme and advertising code which has been approved by the Government and placed before the Parliament in 1978. If bringing of an international cable agency to adhere to the Indian laws is a crime, I do not know what I should say.

Turner International will pay Doordarshan an annual telecast fee of 1,500,000 dollars; 25 per cent of the telecast fee payable within ten days of the signing of the agreement, the balance in three quarterly instalments, not later than the end of each succeeding quarter. Turner International will pay Doordarshan 50 per cent of the additional net revenue over and above the first 1,500,000 dollars from the said satellite channel. Turner International will pay Doordarshan 50 per cent of the net advertising revenue derived from Turner International's programming carried on Doordarshan-3 channel. Turner International will pay Doordarshan 65 per cent of the net advertising revenue derived from Turner International's programming carried on Doordarshan's 1 and 2 channels. Turner international will do the marketing of all CNNI and TI programming. Advertising time on the satellite channel will range from two minutes an hour CNNI service to four minutes an hour for DD programming. Turner International will be allowed four minutes an hour of the advertising time on its programming terrestrially on DD-1, DD-2, and DD-3. Doordarshan and turner International will not exercise any editorial control on each other's programming on the satellite channel. However, all programmes will conform to Doordarshan's broadcasting and advertising code. Doordarshan and Turner International will provide to each other news, information stories, and footage from each other's programmes. Turner International will pay a requisite delivery charge to Doordarshan for this purpose. There will be no such corresponding obligation on Doordarshan. Turner International will provide on a key basis to Doordarshan assistance in its international news—gathering operations outside India.

The agreement will be governed by the Indian laws ...*(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Das Gupta, you please listen to the reply of the Minister.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: They are not interested to listen to my reply, Madam.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am listening most attentively to his non-replies to our questions.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Madam, I was carried away by the Opposition's arguement. Now I have changed my views. This was the best agreement that they have entered into.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We wanted him to tell us whether there is any edotorial control. He is not responding. We wanted him to share with us a copy of the report. He is not responding. What is there in the reply?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: If you do not listen to what is going on in the House, you will not know. I just read it out. As long as you are critical of me, I am supposed to listen to you. when I meet your points, then you have no patience to listen to me because you have already made up your mind.

'Disputes would be resolved by arbitration, under the Indian Arbitration Act, 1940.' 'The place of arbitration would be New Delhi'. It never happens in international agreements. It would always be a place in a foreign country. It would be London or some other place.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: As in the case of Enron.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Madam, on 5th February, 1993, when the proposal came to Doordarshan, out of abundant caution, we did this. Otherwise, the Director-General, Doordarshan, who is the head of a public broadcasting and commercial organisation, does not require the approval of the Cabinet or the Parliament or the Standing Committee, if he has to sign a commercial agreement. It is like his signing an agreement with the BBC for getting the serial 'Yes Minister' with the Germans for 'The Old Fox' with the Japanese for 'Oshin', or in regard to the Mexican soap opera and similar other things. This is the practice ever since Television came to India. They have been doing this since 1969 or 1970. As I said, Madam, out of abundant caution, we referred the matter for consideration to the Committee of Secretaries, to the Ministry of Law; then, a Group of Ministers also had a look at it. Then, it was raised in the Cabinet. Then, I took the initiative of meeting all the Opposition leaders in this House and in the other House. If it satisfies them, I can say 'I had informal interaction with them'. I do not say that I consulted them or they agreed with me.

I have great respect for Mr. Gujral. I will not deny the fact that I had said: 'I will come back to you'. I say this with all the emphasis at my command. At the same time, I had also mentioned that Government may have to take a decision, maybe, in a day or two. This was in the month of May. But Government did not have to take a decision because it was felt sufficient that the Director-General as the head of the broadcasting corporation of India, the national broadcasting corporation, could sign the agreement with the head of another organisation, a private organisation. It was not Government-to-Government. When I consulted the leaders of the Opposition and the Presiding Officers, at that time we were under the impression that, may be it would be a Government-to-Government agreement; it would have to be signed in that way. But it was not Government-to-Government. It was between a commercial organisation and another commercial organisation.

According to the Allocation of Business Rules, according to the laws of

the land, according to the rules prevalent in Government the Director-General is competent. He is the right person to sign it; not a Minister ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDER KUMER GUJRAL: If it was not needed, why did the Cabinet come in? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Because of the CNN...

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: One second, Mr. Minister.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Exactly. I will come to that.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: If you go to the Cabinet, then, Parliament also comes in.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: No; I beg to differ with you. The point is because it was the CNN. Now, we have been hearing the talk of a 'foreign hand'. From 'foreign hand', it is 'cultural invasion' now. These cliches have been raised in the Parliament for the last, nearly three decades, ever since I was studying in college. The late Mr. Piloo Mody was called a CIA agent.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: By whom?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: He wore the medallion After that, they stopped.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Who called him a CIA agent? Please name that person also.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: By our colleagues. Some of them are present here and also in the other House.

SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: You would be very unhappy to name them.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Piloo Mody is no more. We should not bring in his name here.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Right.

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: You are right, Madam.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I had some consultations. I did say that I would come back. But it was not necessary for Government to sign the agreement. It was sufficient if it was signed by the Director-General, Doordarshan who holds the rank of an Additional Secretary in the Government. As such, he had the delegated power and authority. This is not a new thing. This has been going on for the last twenty-twenty-five years. But out of abundant caution, we consulted everyone. I am glad we have. This is a best agreement which is not only beneficial to Doordarshan — CNN is not a competitor; it is complementary and supplementary but it also gives a bigger platform, and, as my colleague, Mr. Ahluwalia, has said, we do not want our people to live like 'frogs in the well'.

Information is power. Today information super-highway is the new route for neo-colonialism. That is why with sheer strength and power of information, one wants to dominate others economically. This is exactly where we would like to bring to the people the accessibility of international news on development, on education, on environment on health care and the whole gamut.

Therefore after getting each and every clause of the Memorandum of Understanding examined by the Law Ministry, I had the draft MOU with me when I was speaking to the leaders of the Opposition. I did not have even the Agreement. In fact we could raise the half-an-hour slots from three to eight because that was the suggestion of the hon. Members of the Opposition when we met both in the Lok Sabha and in the Rajya Sabha. We are happy that we have been able to incorporate some of the suggestions of the hon. Leader of the Opposition.

There are safeguards. Whenever there is a dispute both the parties can meet. They will meet in Delhi for arbitration of any dispute on the Agreement. There are

some safeguards which have been vetted by the Ministry of Law. In deference to the wishes of the hon. Members, we have taken the advice of the Law Ministry they are experts in this field because after all, I am accountable to you. If anything goes wrong, I hold myself responsible and accountable to you here. My head must roll if what I am saying goes against the country.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: We don't want your head to roll. We want your heart to move.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I am conscious of it. That is why I am saying this. As Mr. Ahluwalia has said I belong to the armed forces. The security of the motherland is the dearest to me and to my heart. There is no way in which the security and integrity of the country can be compromised for anything.

So, Madam, in sum total, the entire debate is on the premise that probably we have sold out something or leased out something. It is not so. In fact, a channel which was totally unbridled has been brought under the purview of Indian laws. It has given us financial and technical benefits and a vest reservoir of informaiton which will be useful to our country because the subjects which I have mentioned environment heritage, culture, current affairs, education and many other programmes will be available to you for 24 hours. It was coming on a satellite channel. It is still coming on a satellite channel. It was not coming through an Indian satellite. Today it is available to the Indian people and to people in the fringe areas outside India.

As far as the world news is concerned, CNN has a wide network throughout the world, not through one satellite but through many satellites. Through their chain this will also reach all the corners of the world not only South-East Asia. For South-East Asia, we already have it through Zee. We have it through Star also. So, we have been having agreements with various people. We find that the Turner International is most beneficial because they are not competing with us for our programmes or for advertisements.

Today, there is a media war going on in the United States between Rupert Murdoch's Star and some other media giants. Therefore, we do not want to go as a player in any of those fields. We are happy that a reputed international organisation will be supplementing and complementing our efforts to disseminate and to provide the Indian public with genuine and objective news of the world.

As far as other points are concerned, since there is paucity of time and I will not be able to answer all of them I would only like to say that there has been no change in the policy from 1955 and 1956 of either allowing foreign media...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: What is this, Madam? What is he saying? The Government of India has decided against the policy on the print media and also on television. He is now saying that there is no change of policy.

5.00 P.M.

The position of the Government is totally unacceptable. Madam, we are walking out in protest (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY. This is the most untenable speech. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: This is the most untenable speech and it is most unfortunate that the hon. Minister, whom we considered very honourable has behaved in the most dishonourable way. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Madam, the ownership of Doordarshan is still will the Government of India. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We thought we should listen. (*Interruptions*) But what he is saying leaves me with no other alternative. We cannot listen to

him. As a mark of protest we are walking out.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: सारी चीजों को सर के बल खड़ा कर दिया है इन्होंने और फिर भी बोलते है कि हमने कोई नीतिगत परिवर्तन नहीं किया। ...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We cannot compliment the Minister for making such an agreement. (*Interruptions*) Now we understand that Doordarshan is not owned by the Government of India. We do not know who is owning the Government of India. I am afraid CNN is among the owners of the Government of India.

(At the stage, Some Hon. Member left the Chamber)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The argument that Doordarshan-CNN agreement ...(*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please don't interrupt. The Minister is replying now.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The argument that Doordarshan-CNN agreement will lead to the entry of foreign media in India does not hold water because CNN has not been allowed to produce programmes in India and uplink them from within the Indian territory for Indian audience, which would be the ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM: Madam, there is no quorum in the House? How can he go on when there is no quorum in the House?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): आपने वाक-आउट किया, फिर आप कोरम की बात करते है, यह क्या है?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: In fact, the arrangement with the CNN for relaying a programme in India can be compared with the sale of foreign magazines and newspapers in India.

Now, Madam in the last two or three days a lot of cartels are being formed called **"Swadeshi broadcasters"**. There are no broadcasters in India excepting Doordarshan. If there are, they are all illegal, because the Government of India has not given permission to anyone apart from All India Radio and Doordarshan to be the broadcasters here. This is nothing but an attempt to twist the arms of the Doordarshan, because of the mega fight going on in the international scenario and CNN coming and complementing Doordarshan. People who were thinking of subjugating us with their programmes from Hong Kong, from wherever by programmes which are totally alien to our culture regarding which this very House in the last two and a half years has been crying hoarse, are in a panicky situation. They are jittery that they will lose advertisements once CNN becomes a partner of Doordarshan. Therefore, their vested interests like certain countries are having low intensity proxy war, are affected. We are now seeing that the CNN-Doordarshan agreement is sought to be denigrated by that way. Some of the people called it anti-national and unpatriotic. Here I have a tape which I took from one of the CNN programmes.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Can the Minister place them on the Table of the House?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The very people who have been calling us traitors and have been alleging that we have sold off the nation, figure in this castigating the Govt. The leader of their party, the President of their party their Deputy Leader of the Party in Parliament. Here in this Tape they are using CNN to castigate the Government of India on the Tandoor murder case. This is a cliping which is taken on the 2nd of August. So, they are running with the hare and hunting with the hound.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Madam, I am on a point of order. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: People applying ash on their forcheads during the day time; and seeing movies of colour near to blue ...(*Interruptions*)...at midnight on foreign televisions owned by them. I think this sort of double standards should not be adopted. People practising double standards should not judge other people by their own standards. It is like the pot calling the kettle black. People living in glass houses should not throw stones at others.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Madam, I would like to know what is contained in the tape.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The Minister has already explained what is contained in the tape. Did you not listen?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I cannot show him the tape because I do not have the VCR. This indicates that those who are telling us or stating the fact or criticising the Government for doing some "anti-national" not hesitate to get into those "anti-national" channels because they wanted publicity through them.

Regarding India's map shown on the CNN, it has been vehemently denied by the Vice-President who has said that no map was shown which showed portions of India with in an other country. This has been given in writing. It has come out in Print.

As far as the 'cow clipping' is concerned again it is a matter of opinion. What did they show in that ten—second clipping? On the day of launch of the CNN channel on the 30th June, headlines related to a report of India was shown highlighting the buoyant state of the Indian economy. It said among other things, "The Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's economic reforms have resulted in hard currency reserves of $20 billion up from $2 billion in 1991. Overseas investment up by $6.5 billion from less than half-a-billion in 1990. Export growth runs at 20 per cent per year." However, the visual clipping that went with the item showed some cows in the streets of Bombay. We see that every day in India. Every day we see *goudhuli* time also when marriages take place. The clipping was immediately withdrawn and the CNN released to the Press an unqualified apology in deference to the sensitivities of the people. They have also clarified that shots of the cows were inserted with a commentary to the effect that in new India, ancient religions and cultures live, side by side, with modern technology and commerce.

Therefore, Madam had the Doordarshan and the CNN not signed this agreement, was CNN under any obligation to apologise to us? It is an international channel. I would like to take a little more time.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Madam, there is only one point I would like to make. He has explained the point about the cow which was made by some Opposition Members. The other point they said is, "India-controlled Kashmir". They have not only said this, but they have also circulated yesterday a note saying what are the good points of the CNN. In that very note in writing they have used the expression, "India-controlled Kashmir". What have you got to say about it?

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: How can I say anything on someone else's sending a note to him? My Ministry has not sent any note.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: They have sent a note. You have to take cognizance of that note which is being circulated in public.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: If I receive, I will take note of it.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: My point is, they say, "India-controlled Kashmir". We have made this point. While you are replying to the debate, we expect you to kindly tell us what the position of the

Government of India is on CNN's using the term "India-controlled Kashmir", with whom you have signed an agreement. Every day we have been objecting when the BBC says, "India-administered Kashmir."

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: If I receive the note, I will take cognizance of it.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: I will give it to you.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: I will be grateful.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Have you not seen it? They have distributed it to every Member of Parliament.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: When I receive it, I will take cognizance of it. You are most welcome to interpret it in any way you like, whether I have seen it or not.

SHRI JAGOMHAN: They have given it in writing. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: To whomsoever they distribute, how can I be responsible? ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Jagmohan, let him complete his reply.

SHRI JAGMOHAN: Madam, my only submission is, we have made some points. He has replied to the point of 'cow' clipping and we are satisfied with it. I want to know what his reply would be on the term, "India-controlled Kashmir".

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: May I, with your permission, quote a little bit, Madam? This is "World Religions and the Environment". I quote:

> "The importance of cattle in Vedic India was not merely economic. Animals also fulfilled significant ritualistic and symbolic roles in the Vedic society. Cow's milk and dairy products were used in religious ceremonies and offered as oblations to gods. Towards the end of the Vedic period, cow-dung and ghee were used in religious ceremonies as they were thought to provide a purificatory role which became prominent in later years. This includes cows, goats, sheep, buffaloes, dogs and elephants. Cows, however, are sanctified, a sanctity which has been maintained since the time of the Rig Veda. Cow has also been regarded as a goddess."

I do not know whether some people are disturbed because Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao has been shown as having achieved a lot in these four years or whether they were against the cow. So, I could not really understand. One can have two opinions. One may like the cow for the palate and one may like the cow to be revered. (*Interruptions*). This is a pluralistic society. One can have any view on that, Madam.

Then, Madam, the other advantages are as follows. Doordarshan would provide a daily five-minute news capsule to CNN for incorporation in the daily programme, 'World Report', which is broadcast on the CNN global network DD's earlier contribution was only once a week. And we can still have discussions with them and see if it can be increased even more. Beginning next month, CNN has offered free training facilities at Atlanta, U.S., four times a year for Indian television personnel. Only to-and-fro expenses will be borne by Doordarshan. CNN will also hold workshops in India where a larger number of DD personnel can benefit. CNN is to send a team to India shortly to assess the hardware and programming needs of Doordarshan news and render assistance in computerisation of Doordarshan's news set-up. CNN is to provide consultancy services in technology transfer, particularly in the area of automation of Doordarshan's broadcasting service. CNN's popular programes

such as Snow-biz, This Week, Travel Guide, World Sport and World Business History will shortly be made available to Indian viewers on Doordarshan's own channel. These will be recorded, previewed and edited, if necessary, before telecast on terrestrial channels. CNN will assist Doordarshan's endeavour to widen its international news-gathering operations by providing coverage of events outside India where CNN has such capacity. Although there is no termination clause in the agreement, Doordarshan and CNN may renew it for such additional purpose and upon such terms as the two negotiate. The agreement is mutually terminable for breach of terms and conditions under the general law of termination, that is under the Indian law.

So, Madam, ina nut-shell, on principle, I have tried to meet some of the points. But the main point is that there has been no other deal or sell-out or lease and no Indian has been left out because at the time when CNN came there, no Indian parties had approached. Now, if some Indian parties or Indian cartels are there, we will definitely examine them for their merits. If it is beneficial to Doordarshan, then we shall. We are not going to be like Kalidasa and hack at our own feet by putting competitors on Doordarshan channels who will be competing for Doordarshan 2 and Doordarshan 1 and who will be operating in the same area where Doordarshan is. We may be gullible as some of the Members have said, but we are not that gullible that we will commit hara-kiri and destroy Doordarshan. Therefore, since CNN is not a competitor, Doordarshan has taken this step to have an agreement with it as equal partners. It is a strategic agreement which will be beneficial not only to the Information and Broadcasting Ministry but to the whole nation as such.

And, as far as improving our professional and technical skill and coverage on Doordarshan is concerned, it is one of the charges given to Doordarshan in the Eighth Plan, in the Congress manifesto and the National Development Council. With this aim in view, we shall have more negotiations with other parties to see that Doordarshan really becomes international not only for five minutes a day but even more. It is on the anvil. I do not think it is proper that every single commercial agreement which would be beneficial to Doordarshan should be discussed here giving away the commercial confidentiality which none of my competitors is under obligation to do and it would be a sad day as Mr. Upendra and Mr. Ahluwalia said that if every single bureaucrat has to pass through an X-Ray and a microscope here in Parliament, that will be the end of civilised Government. Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I think, the Minister has replied to all the questions raised by the hon. Members. Now, I would like to take up the Short Duration Discussion on the nexus between the criminals and the politicians in the context of the Vohra Committee Report.

श्री वीरेन जे० शाह (महाराष्ट्र): हमने सोचा था कि के०पी० सिंह देव साहब अभी एक घंटा और बोलेंगे।

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION ON THE NEXUS BETWEEN POLITICIANS AND CRIMINALS IN THE CONTEXT OF VOHRA COMMITTEE REPORT

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri M.A. Baby. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I have a submission to make.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): How can you do that? You went out of the House. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajasthan): Madam, it cannot be over today. (*Interruptions*)